

San Juan County

Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan

2017-2022: *DRAFT*



DRAFT July 2016

San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan 2017 - 2022:

Building an integrated parks, trails, and natural areas system for the people of San Juan County

DRAFT July 2016



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Acronyms and Abbreviations:

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	
CFP	Capital Facilities Plan	
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources	
Island Rec	San Juan Island Park and Recreation District	
LIFRC	Lopez Island Family Resources Center	LNT
		Leave No Trace
NMTP	San Juan County Non-motorized Transportation Plan	
NPS	National Park Service	
REET	Real Estate Excise Tax	
RCO	Recreation and Conservation Office	
SJPT	San Juan Preservation Trust	
TIP	Transportation Improvement Plan	
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
UW	University of Washington	
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation	

2030 Vision for Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas

We envision an interconnected integrated system of parks, trails, and natural areas that provides easy access to the water and natural areas; facilitates safe, non-motorized travel throughout the community; celebrates island culture, character, and a healthy environment; and is delivered through well-funded, efficient county programs and innovative partnerships.

Executive Summary

The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan (Plan) provides a 20-year long-term vision and six-year plan to guide action and investment in a wide variety of outdoor spaces and facilities managed by San Juan County. In addition, it serves as the county's non-motorized plan, thereby assuring consistency between facilities and compliance with state requirements. Over the course of one year, San Juan County assessed community needs, engaged the public, and crafted a plan that strengthens the counties systems. This Plan charts a clear future for San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank, and Public Works, which are the three county departments charged with overseeing county parks, trails, and natural areas facilities.

This Plan updates the previous one and is designed to maintain San Juan County's eligibility for state-based park and recreation grant funding, as well as funding sources for non-motorized facilities and land conservation. Some significant updates and enhancements include:

- **Comprehensive Assessment of Community Needs.** A variety of public involvement methods were used to engage the public in the planning process and accurately gauge community needs and priorities. By doing so, the Plan describes needs in greater detail and presents goals, strategies, and actions designed to address those needs.
- **Park, Trail, and Natural Area Inventory and Classification System.** The Plan significantly updates the county's inventory of parks, trails, and natural areas, as well as other public land ownership throughout the county.
- **Incorporation of the county's Non-Motorized Plan.** The Plan addresses all forms of non-motorized transportation and recreation opportunities, including pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian and marine modes, while meeting the Growth Management Act requirements of the county Comprehensive Plan.
- **Collaborative Mission and Long-term Community Vision.** The Plan introduces a collaborative mission statement for County Parks, the Land Bank, and Public Works as well as a 20-year community vision.

Key Issues

The planning process revealed a number of key issues that impact the county's parks, trails, and natural areas and provide a foundation for the overall focus and direction of this Plan. Key issues include:

- **An Aging Population and Older Demographic.** The county's population is growing, and the fastest-growing age group is 50 and older. As indicated in community survey results discussed in Chapter 4, the older generation enjoys the outdoors in a relatively low-impact manner, mainly through hiking, walking, wildlife-watching, and relaxing in nature. Although 87 percent of the broader community values parks, trails and natural areas as critical to the

county's quality of life, balancing the facility needs of the older generations with those of a shrinking, but important, younger demographic is and will continue to be a challenge.

- **Impact of Tourism.** Tourism drives the local economy. During the summer months, the height of the tourist season, county facilities are heavily visited by tourists, especially in areas of high popularity such as the west side of San Juan Island. The relatively short, intense burst of use often exceeds the capacity of many facilities. For example, campsite reservations at San Juan County Park have approached 100 percent during the peak summer season for the past several years, which places severe strains on park facilities, maintenance, and staff. Accommodating such seasonal peaks in use remains a major challenge due to limited staff capacity and revenue to meet the short-term need.
- **Limited Funding and Staff Capacity.** Like most counties throughout the state, San Juan County has limited funding to support parks, trails, and natural areas programs. County departments have been successful in leveraging local funding with state and federal grants and developing innovative ways to meet maintenance needs and staffing shortfalls. In 2009, the County Parks and Fair Department began using volunteers to maintain some facilities rather than having to close them. All county departments have operated on lean budgets for many years. To meet the myriad needs identified in this plan, an expansion of revenue streams from local, state, and federal sources will be required.
- **Funding and Leveraging Available Resources.** Collaboration is now expanding to other public agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, which further leverage resources to achieve common community goals. Additionally, the network of county parks, trails, and natural areas makes extensive use of donated lands, facilities and easements (see Appendix D).
- **County Department Roles and Functions.** In recent years, San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank, and Public Works have collaborated more closely on meeting park, trail, and natural area needs. While this Plan outlines an even more collaborative approach, one key area of need that falls between county departments is trails. Trails are defined as non-motorized transportation and recreation facilities that address all aspects of pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian and marine needs. A clear definition of department leadership and dedication of funding will be required to meet the community's desire for trails identified in this Plan.

Community Needs and Priorities

Through discussion with staff, review of past planning documents, and findings from public outreach efforts, four top-tier areas of community need have been identified:

- **Trails.** As captured in previous plans and illustrated by the growth and evolution of local trails groups, trails for biking, walking, and improved connectivity are a top-tier priority for residents. Over 77 percent of residents ranked trails in parks/natural areas as a high priority. To date, the county has played a limited role in trail development with County Parks and the Land Bank developing trails on their respective properties and Public Works developing trails within road right-of-ways. A significant investment and expansion of collaboration with public agencies, trails groups, and volunteers will be needed to meet the recommended actions presented in this Plan.

- **Bicycle Routes.** Developing safe non-motorized routes for both recreation and transportation were key priorities for many, with 54 percent of survey respondents selecting bike routes on county roads high priorities. Public Works is in the key role in improving and developing bicycle routes.
- **Land Protection.** Protection of the natural beauty and character of the San Juans is also a top priority for residents. The Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust have played lead roles in meeting this need for years, often working in close collaboration. While a significant majority (88 percent) of residents supports further land protection, 63 percent also indicated that not enough conservation land is managed for public use.
- **Water Access.** Overall, residents do not feel well served with shoreline access opportunities. More than 77 percent of respondents placed a high level of importance on access to the shoreline and 65 percent rate the need for more access high or moderately high. From expanding shoreline access at road end right-of-ways and shoreline parks to acquiring new waterfront lands, County Parks, the Land Bank, and Public Works can all play a role in improving shoreline access. Opportunity also exists to work with other public agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and Washington Department of Natural Resources to improve access to existing public lands on the shore.
- **Stewardship and Maintenance.** San Juan County residents recognize the importance and challenge of stewardship and maintenance. County Parks and the Land Bank have been innovative in meeting stewardship and maintenance needs over the years. Opportunity exists to further engage the community in caring for parks, trails, and natural areas throughout the county, and to identify resource sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies.

Plan Framework

The foundation of this Plan—the plan framework—is the collaborative mission, community values and long-term vision, and key goals presented in Chapter 5. This framework provides a context for implementation of this Plan, through the recommended actions and projects presented in Chapter 6.

Core Values

Overall, five community values establish the core for the vision and goals of the Plan:

- **Quality of Life:** We value the role parks, trails, and natural areas play in maintaining the health and well-being of our community.
- **Accessibility:** We value creating, enhancing, and expanding opportunities for the community to access our parks, trails, and natural areas and for non-motorized transportation throughout the County.
- **Natural Integrity:** We value maintaining and protecting robust ecosystem processes and structure, and biodiversity across our unique island environment.
- **Stewardship:** We value being responsible stewards of the natural environment and providing well maintained facilities and spaces for current and future generations to enjoy.

- **Sustainability:** We value taking a sustainable approach to operations and facility development that provides adequate funding to meet community needs while protecting the integrity of our natural resources.

Goals

Nine key goals provide a road map for achieving the community's long-term vision for parks, trails, and natural areas:

1. **Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas System.** Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences, promotes non-motorized transportation opportunities, and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.
2. **Trail Planning and Development.** Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, and other areas of interest.
3. **Bicycling.** Promote the development of a safe and convenient non-motorized transportation system that accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists in San Juan County and serves the needs of residents and visitors.
4. **Land Protection.** Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.
5. **Water Access.** Provide and improve safe public access to fresh and salt water shorelines and waterways.
6. **Stewardship and Maintenance.** Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.
7. **Funding.** Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system.
8. **Partnerships and Collaboration.** Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers to (i.e. Terrestrial Managers Group) improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.
9. **Community Engagement.** Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of county services.

Implementation

This Plan captures San Juan County residents' needs and desires for the county natural areas, parks and trail systems. The Plan identifies clear goals, strategies, and priority actions and projects to guide the County toward meeting myriad needs and opportunities. The capital facilities plan

(CFP) presented in Chapter 6 proposes nearly \$15 million in capital projects over the next six years. More than \$10 million of these projects are land acquisition projects led by the Land Bank, while the remainder includes development and renovation projects, primarily led by San Juan County Parks and Public Works.

While the CFP presents an ambitious list of capital projects and the six-year action plan presented in Chapter 6 captures a wide-ranging list of priority actions to pursue, it is likely that many projects and actions will not be completed due to funding limitations and other resource constraints. To ensure priority needs are met, community support and ongoing collaboration among residents, volunteer groups, the County Council, county departments, other public agencies and a variety of other partners is required.

Key Recommendations

- Identify existing public lands that could provide enhanced public access opportunities, especially public lands with water access.
- Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools such as land or development right purchase, exchange, and private donation.
- Continue to develop safe non-motorized transportation routes and identify cross island trail opportunities to provide desired connections within and between the islands.
- Prioritize the backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects and emphasize low impact development and sustainable design techniques in the design and construction of future facilities.
- Pursue agricultural land-protection opportunities in the Crow, Center, and San Juan Valleys
- Explore expansion opportunities at San Juan County Park and Odlin County Park.
- Pursue and enact consistent capital improvement funding sources.
- Encourage volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on county lands through a variety of groups such as Lopez, San Juan and Orcas Youth Conservation Corps and other service clubs.

This Plan establishes a clear vision and direction for San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas for the next six years and beyond. Continued collaboration, commitment, ingenuity, and innovation is essential to turning recommended actions and projects into completed success stories.

Chapter 1. Introduction

The *San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan* provides a long-term vision and six-year plan to guide action and investment in a wide variety of outdoor spaces and facilities overseen by San Juan County. Over the course of one year, San Juan County worked to assess community needs, engage the public, and craft a plan that strengthens the parks, trails, and natural areas system and charts a clear future for San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank, and Public Works.

This chapter provides an overview of the approach and process used to create this Plan, a review of its organization, and a discussion of its relationship to other County plans.

Purpose and Approach

Every six years, San Juan County revisits and updates its PTNA plan to ensure it responds to community needs and desires and provides clear direction for the identification, development, and management of parks, trails, and natural areas. In addition, it serves as the county's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, thereby assuring consistency between facilities and compliance with state requirements. A county-approved six-year parks plan not only establishes clear priorities, it also makes the county eligible for important state grants that fund the majority of proposed parks, trails, and natural areas projects. Therefore, this Plan is designed to meet the eligibility requirements for grants administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for a six year period from 2017-2022.

Collaborative Approach

The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan is a collaborative effort between the three county departments that play a role in the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas: San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank, and Public Works. (See Chapter 2 for an overview of the three departments.) While each department has its own mission, a joint mission statement has been developed to guide the implementation of this Plan:

Work collaboratively to protect the natural beauty and character of the islands and respond to community needs through the provision of quality parks, trails, and natural areas and responsible stewardship of the natural environment and county facilities.

Over the course of one year, the county worked to accomplish four key planning objectives:

- Assess community needs, desires, challenges, and opportunities for parks, trails, and natural areas through a variety of public involvement methods;
- Update, consolidate, and refine county inventory information on parks, trails, and natural areas;
- Research viable local, state, and federal funding opportunities to fund implementation of priority projects and actions; and
- Develop a long-term vision and six-year action plan that charts a clear future for county lands and facilities.

Planning Process

Working together, the county designed a planning process that emphasized public involvement through a variety of methods. Launched in November 2015, the 12-month planning process involved four key project phases, consisting of the components below.

Project Phases

- **Phase 1: Asset and Opportunity Identification.** The purpose of Phase 1 was to identify the key assets and opportunities of the Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas system. Key tasks included: Conduct supporting background research to establish the planning context; review and update the facility inventory; and identify big-picture opportunities through preliminary outreach.
- **Phase 2: Vision and Needs Assessment.** In Phase 2, a variety of public involvement methods were used to capture the community's vision, values, needs and hopes for the parks system. Mapping was also used to capture opportunity areas for trails, water access, and land conservation.
- **Phase 3: Goal, Policy, and Action development.** Information gathered through Phases 1 and 2 provided the foundation for the development of the frameworks of the plan including key goals, policies, and actions. A capital facilities plan and review of public funding options was also completed to guide implementation of the Plan. Recommended goals, policies, actions, and projects were refined through the public involvement process and staff review.
- **Phase 4: Plan Adoption and Implementation.** The final phase of the planning process involved completing the final Plan through staff review and public comment. Final adoption and implementation of the Plan is anticipated by fall of 2016.

Public Involvement

Public Workshops

Public workshops were held to solicit public input and feedback on various plan components. Four workshops were held in March 2016 on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands to capture community input on the key needs and priorities of the Plan. In total, the workshops attracted 83 citizens. (See Appendix B for workshop results.)

Community Survey

In early March 2016, a community survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected households on the four ferry served islands. The purpose of the survey was to collect statistically significant information on current use of facilities, preferred activities, and support for future improvements. Ultimately, 360 surveys were returned, providing a 12 percent response rate and an accurate gauge of residents' opinions. (See Appendix B for survey results.)

Facility Inventory and Classification

The county owns and operates a wide variety of parks, trails, and natural areas, mostly concentrated on the four ferry-served islands of San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw. To assess conditions and needs at county facilities, site visits and evaluations were conducted for the majority of facilities. Findings informed the development of the six-year capital facilities plan. A

classification scheme detailing facility type and description was also developed for all county facilities, establishing a framework for future evaluation of the park system (see Chapter 3 for more information).

Plan Organization

The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan is composed of 6 chapters and 4 appendices:

- **Chapter 1. Introduction.** Provides an overview of the approach and process used to create this Plan, a review of its organization, and a discussion of its relationship to other county plans.
- **Chapter 2. Planning Area Overview.** Provides an overview of San Juan County's landscape, highlighting key features, habitats, and land use and development trends; San Juan County's community, highlighting key demographic and economic trends; special planning considerations; and the network of public agencies that play a role in providing spaces and programs for outdoor recreation and natural area protection.
- **Chapter 3. Existing Resources.** Provides a detailed summary of San Juan County parks, trails, and natural areas facilities, including a review of a new inventory classification scheme as well as a more detailed facility inventory and assessment.
- **Chapter 4. Community Needs.** Provides an overview of the activities and major findings of the public involvement process.
- **Chapter 5. Mission, Values, Vision, Goals, and Policies.** Presents the Plan's core planning framework.
- **Chapter 6. Implementation: Recommended Actions and Projects.** Provides a roadmap for plan implementation, including a review of top- and second-tier actions for the next six years, a six-year capital facilities plan, and a summary of funding opportunities for implementation.

Relationship to Other Plans

The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan establishes a long-term vision, new goals and policies, and a six-year action plan for the parks, trails, and natural areas of San Juan County for 2017 to 2022. This Plan substantially updates the 2011-2016 Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Preserved Lands for San Juan County and includes policy guidance from several past county plans. RCO requires cities and counties applying for RCO grants to have a current park, recreation, and open space plan that complies with all RCO requirements. Other state funding agencies, such as the state Washington Department of Transportation, require projects to be listed in an approved planning document.

Although the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) does not contain a separate parks and recreation element, the land use element does establish broad goals and policies for recreation, natural resource conservation, open space and scenic resources, and access to public lands and facilities that relate to goals and policies set forth in this Plan. The Comp Plan contains a transportation element which references the Non-Motorized Plan contained within the PTNA. The Non-Motorized Plan addresses pedestrian and bicycle trails and human powered water craft shore access areas and meets the Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements. This Plan is

intended to amplify the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and may be used as a foundation for the development of a separate park and recreation element in a future Comprehensive Plan update.

Other county plans discussed below provide additional community context and support the goals, strategies, and implementation priorities set forth in this Plan. While the following plans were completed prior to this Plan, they provide further context and detail for some of the recommended actions and projects.

- **San Juan Island Trails Plan (2006).** The San Juan Island Trails Committee completed a trails plan for San Juan Island in 2006 in partnership with San Juan County Parks, Island Rec, and the National Park Service. The plan outlines a long-term vision and prioritized list of trail projects across the island. Some projects have been implemented while others are still in the conceptual phase.
- **San Juan County Land Bank Habitat Conservation Plan (2008).** San Juan County Land Bank completed the Habitat Conservation Plan in 2008 to guide the land protection efforts of the Land Bank. The plan highlights several opportunity areas and potential projects intended to guide Land Bank work through 2014.
- **Lopez Island Trails Plan (2014).** The Lopez Community Trails Network partnered with a number of organizations and individuals to develop a long range plan to achieve the vision of a network of trails for non-motorized use on Lopez Island. A number of trail opportunities are identified and are in various stages of planning and/or implementation.

Chapter 2. Planning Area Overview

To thoroughly plan for parks, trails, and natural areas in San Juan County, an understanding of the following elements is required: Key landscape features, habitats, land use and development trends;

- Community profile, including demographic and economic trends;
- Special planning considerations; and
- The network of local, state, and federal agencies that play a role in providing spaces and programs for outdoor recreation and natural area protection.

The Landscape

San Juan County is located in the northwestern portion of Washington State in Puget Sound, composing a buffer of islands between mainland Washington and the southern end of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. To the west lies Haro Strait and Boundary Pass, marking the international boundary between Canada and the United States; to the east lies Rosario Strait; and to the south the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Figure 2.1).

An island county made up of no fewer than 743 islands, reefs, and rocks at low tide, San Juan County is truly unique. The total land area is approximately 180 square miles with about 375 miles of shoreline abutting 600 square miles of inland sea. The San Juan Island group includes several islands on the eastern archipelago that belong to Skagit and Whatcom counties, including Cypress, Guemes, Sinclair, and Lummi Islands.

Figure 2.1: San Juan County Regional Context



In San Juan County, about 20 islands have year-round residents, but most live on the four ferry served islands of Lopez, Orcas, San Juan, and Shaw, with about half of the county's population living on San Juan Island.

The Town of Friday Harbor on San Juan Island is the commercial center of the islands as well as the county seat and the only incorporated municipality in the county. The villages of Eastsound on Orcas Island and Lopez Village on Lopez Island serve as smaller commercial centers.

The Natural Environment

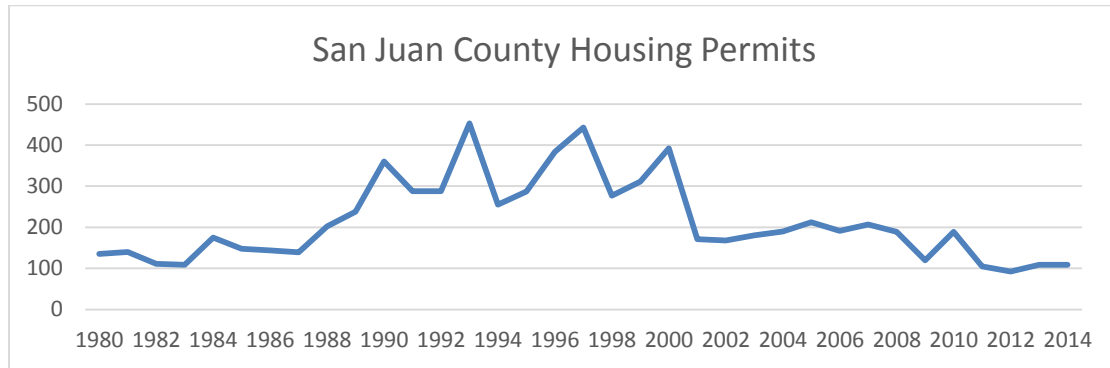
The islands of San Juan County represent the highest points of a submerged mountain range that once connected Vancouver Island with the mainland. In the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains, the islands enjoy a temperate climate that supports a wide variety of habitats, species, and rare plant communities. Combined with the unique marine environment of rocky intertidal areas, cliffs, sand dunes, estuaries, and other priority habitats, San Juan County encompasses rich, diverse ecological systems despite having the smallest land area of Washington's 39 counties.

As documented in the San Juan County Land Bank's Habitat Conservation Plan, five focal habitat types cover many of the county's rare species and communities, and all are threatened by current and projected development trends. These focal habitat types include: undeveloped shoreline; large, intact forests; coastal prairies; oak woodlands; and high-quality wetlands. Additional core conservation areas include eelgrass, kelp beds, and other nearshore marine areas.

Land Use and Development

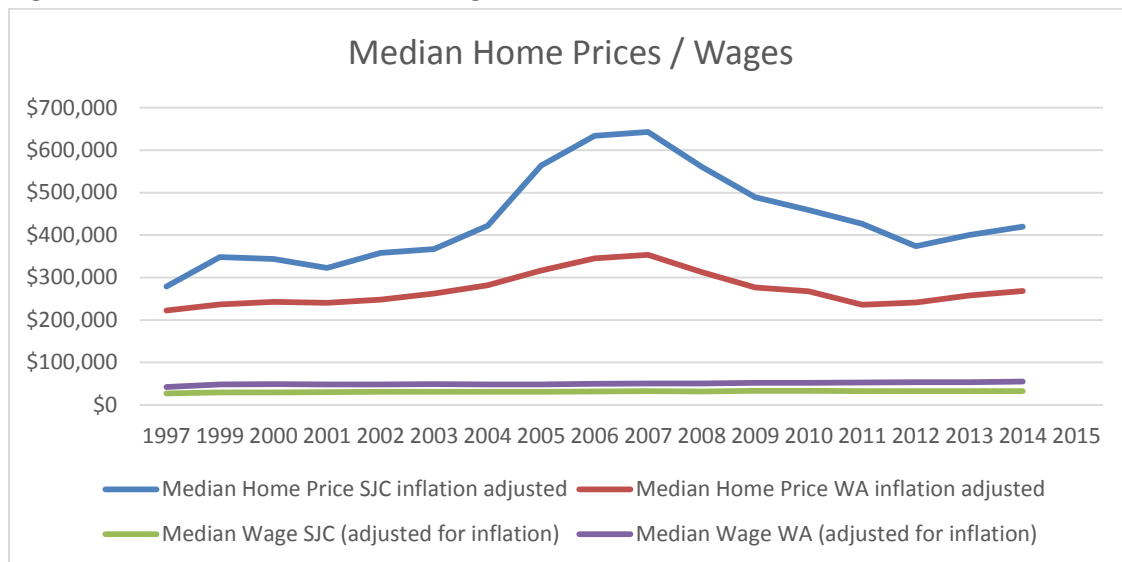
Sparsely populated and characterized by rolling hills, fertile farmland, forested hillsides, and miles of marine shoreline, San Juan County is a rural county with an economy based in recreational tourism, second-home development, and the retirement industry. While the 1990s and early 2000s brought a wave of new development, since 2005, the trend of new development has slowed as illustrated by a decrease in residential building permits (Figure 2.2) Despite a downturn in housing prices during the recession between 2008 and 2012, the growing number of second home purchases by non-county residents, the rise in popularity of converting long term rentals into vacation rentals, and a decrease in inventory have kept housing in the county unaffordable for many working families. Between 1997 and 2015, wages in the county, adjusted for inflation, have increased 120 percent while already high housing costs, adjusted for inflation, have seen an overall increase of 150 percent. (Figure 2.3)

Fig. 2.2: Single Family Residential Building Permits



Sources: San Juan County Dept. of Community Development; Runstad Center for Real Estate Research, Univ. of Wash.; Dept. of Commerce.

Fig. 2.3: Median Home Prices and Wages



Sources: Runstad Center for Real Estate Research, Univ. of Washington; Coldwell Banker San Juan County Real Estate Market Summary, 2015, NWMLS; Wages: Washington State Employment Security Dept.; Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Inflation Calculator.

Land use in the San Juan Islands is dominated by resource lands, which includes lands designated as agricultural or forestry resource, rural farm forest, or conservancy; approximately 86 percent (96,639 acres) of land use falls into this category, contributing to the rural and nature-rich atmosphere of the islands (Table 2.1). Rural residential makes up eight percent (9,086 acres) of the land use in the county, with the greatest proportion of rural residential land use on Shaw and San Juan islands.

Table 2.1: San Juan County 2010 Land Use Summary

Comprehensive Plan Land Use	Acres
Total Resource Lands	32,868
Total Rural Lands Not in Activity Centers	74,396
Village, Hamlet, Residential Activity Centers, Eastsound Rural	932
Total Unincorporated	110,323
Town of Friday Harbor	1,309
Total County	111,632

Source: Eldred Assoc. San Juan County Comprehensive Plan Update Task 2: Buildout Analysis, Table 25; San Juan County GIS Program Coordinator

The Community

The islands of San Juan County have a culture and charm that has attracted visitors and residents for over a century. The economy of the islands has always been based on the abundance of local natural resources—lime, timber, and salmon in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and fisheries and natural amenity-driven industries in modern times. The beauty and lifestyle of the islands drive the local economy today, with local commerce is based on the tourist and retirement industries.

Some significant trends, explored in more detail below, influence the role of parks, trails, and natural areas in San Juan County:

- **An older population.** According to Washington State Office of Financial Management, in 2015 the median age in San Juan County was 55 years, compared to 37 years for Washington State. The fastest growing age group in the county is 65 and older. Much of the shift to an older demographic can be attributed to migration into the county, influenced greatly by the large number of residents moving to the islands to retire. As indicated in community survey results discussed in Chapter 4, the older generation tends to enjoy the outdoors in a relatively low-impact manner, mainly through hiking, walking, wildlife watching, and relaxing in nature.
- **Part-time residency.** The county has a high part-time population. While some “part-timers” are deeply involved in the community, anecdotal evidence suggests this portion of the population is not as heavily invested in local issues as full-time residents, which may have implications for support of County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas efforts.
- **Seasonal influx of tourists.** To a large extent, tourism drives the local economy, and people visit the San Juans to experience the outdoors and the unique beauty of the islands. During the summer months, the height of the tourist season, county facilities are heavily visited by tourists, especially in areas of high popularity such as the west side of San Juan Island. The relatively short, burst of intense use often exceeds the capacity of many facilities.
- **High cost of living and housing affordability.** The influx of an older, generally wealthier population has increased the cost of living in San Juan County. While basic goods such as

food and construction materials have always been more expensive in the islands, the dramatic increase of a population sector that can pay higher prices for homes and attendant services has created a large disparity between working-wage earners and retirees. Subsequently, more workers are spending a growing portion of their income on meeting basic needs, hoping to simply “make ends meet,” while fewer families are able to save for the future. The parks, trails, and natural areas open to the public are a critical resource for these families who cannot afford to vacation or recreate elsewhere.

Population

San Juan County was officially “discovered” as a wonderful place to live, work, and play in the 1990s. The county experienced rapid growth during that decade, increasing by 40 percent from 10,000 to 14,000 people. Since 2000, population growth has (slowed to a more modest increase, moderate, leveled out, low) with a projected 2015 population of (15,907, moderate, 14,104, low).¹ Based on growth projections of (-.32 low, .41 moderate) percent per year, the county’s population is forecasted to grow (decrease) to (12,931 low, 17,334 moderate) by 2036.

Table 2.2: Population Allocations

LOW:

Island	2015 Population	2036 Population	% Change 2015-2036	% Population By Island (2015)	% Population By Island (2036)
San Juan (unincorp.)	4,808	4,408	-8.32%	34.10%	34.10%
Friday Harbor	1,932	1,771	-8.33%	13.70%	13.70%
Orcas	4,667	4,279	-8.31%	33.10%	33.10%
Lopez	2,128	1,951	-8.32%	15.10%	15.10%
Shaw	210	193	-8.10%	1.50%	1.50%
Outer Islands	359	329	-8.36%	2.50%	2.50%
Total	14,104	12,931	-8.32%	100.00%	100.00%

MODERATE:

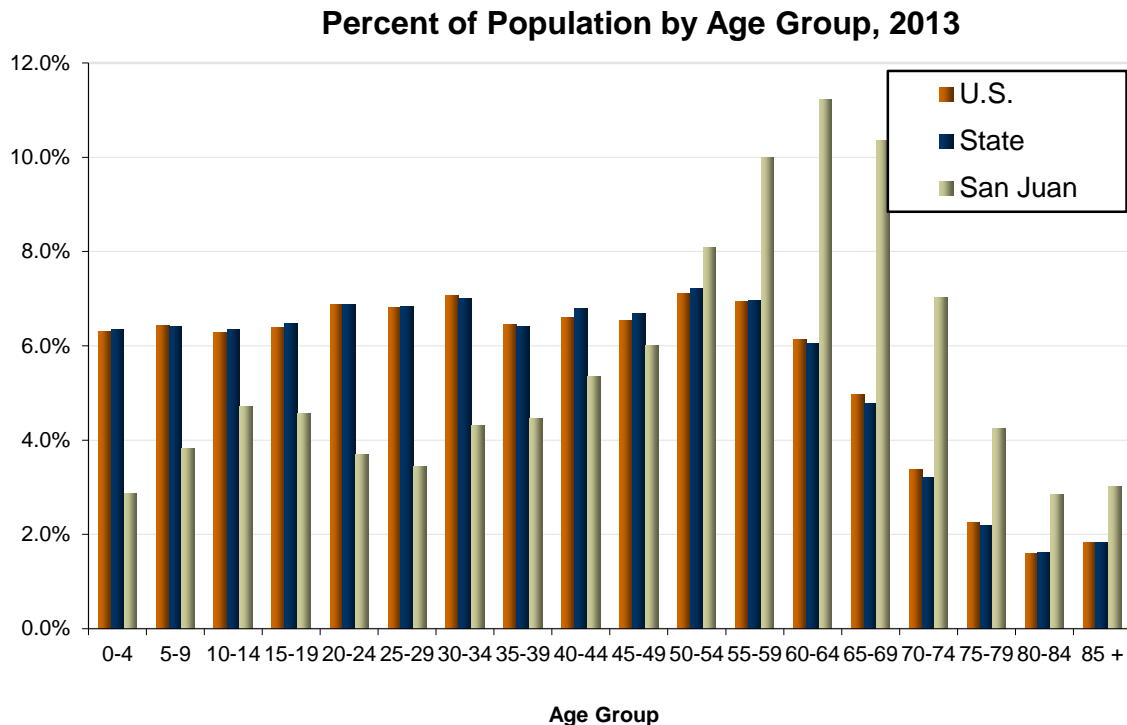
Island	2015 Population	2036 Population	% Change 2015-2036	% Population By Island (2015)	% Population By Island (2036)
San Juan (unincorp.)	5,422	5,908	8.96%	34.10%	34.10%
Friday Harbor	2,178	2,373	8.95%	13.70%	13.70%
Orcas	5,263	5,735	8.97%	33.10%	33.10%
Lopez	2,401	2,616	8.95%	15.10%	15.10%
Shaw	238	259	8.82%	1.50%	1.50%
Outer Islands	405	441	8.89%	2.50%	2.50%
Total	15,907	17,334	8.97%	100.00%	100.00%

¹ Eldred & Associates San Juan County Comprehensive Plan Update Population Projections, Table 1.

Source: Eldred Assoc., San Juan County Comprehensive Plan Phase 2 Table 8.

For the past 40 years, the county’s growth can be attributed mainly to migration into the county. From 2005 to 2015, the population increased by 1,000 with the number of deaths outweighing the number of births, and a net migration of 1,312. With the steady migration of new residents to the county, a strong trend of an older population can be seen. Figure 2.4 shows San Juan County age demographic compared to Washington State and the US. Figure 2.5 shows the growth of the 65 and older age group from 2010 and forecasted to 2040. By 2040, the age group is forecasted to make up 34 percent of the total population, 66 percent above the state average; by 2020, 59 percent of the population is forecasted to be 50 and older – an extreme disproportion of a retiring and retired population.²

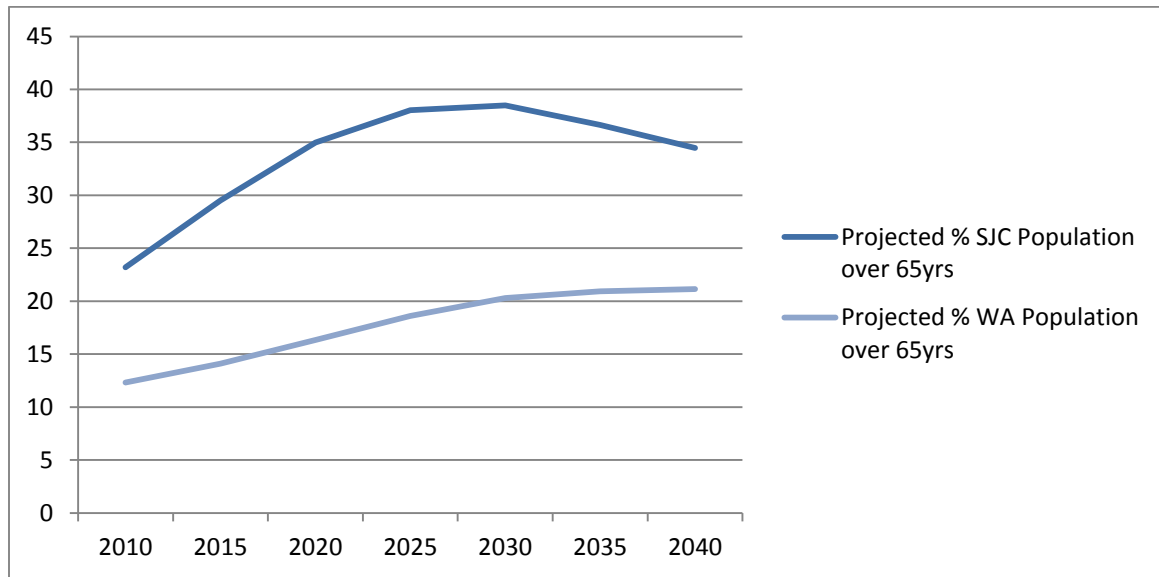
Figure 2.4: Percent of Population over 65



Source: WA State Employment Securities Dept.

² Washington State Economic Securities Division San Juan County Data Tables

Figure 2.5: Population over age 65, 2010-2040



Source: State of Washington Office of Financial Management, 2012 Projections, County Growth Management
Population Projections by Age and Sex: 2010-2040 intermediate projections

Part-time Residents

As the county's total population has grown over the past 15 years, so too has the number of part-time residents. According to 2010 Census figures, 57 percent of all housing units are occupied, while 43 percent are vacant. Seven percent are vacant because they are on the market, between tenants or for other reasons. Thirty-six percent of all housing units are used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.³

Tourism

Increased tourism revenues in San Juan County have eclipsed the county's steady growth in population over the last 15 years, making the tourism industry a major source of income for the County.⁴ During the peak of the tourist season, the County's population increases roughly 60 percent, having a significant impact on the infrastructure of a relatively small, rural county. According to a recent tourism study for San Juan County, tourism spending has gradually increased since 2003, totaling nearly \$189 million in 2014.

The county is recognized as a top travel destination in Washington, which also includes the State Scenic Byway Designation for San Juan and Orcas Islands. In 2014 Fodors.com named the San Juan Islands as one of the 10 Best Bike Vacations in the US. Lonely Planet recognized the San Juan Islands as one of the Top 10 US travel destinations for 2013.⁵ And the San Juan Islands ferry ride has been identified as one of the world's top ten ferry rides by the Society of American Travel

³ US Census Bureau – 2010 Demographic Profile Data

⁴ San Juan County Comp Plan – Economic Development Element

⁵<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/travel-tips-and-articles/77583>

Writers.⁶ The islands continue to be highlighted as a must-experience destination by major news outlets, including the New York Times⁷, the Seattle Post Intelligencer and popular lifestyle magazines such as Sunset.

Economy

As discussed above, the retirement and tourist industries drive the economy of San Juan County. According to the Washington State Data Book, the Leisure and Hospitality industry is the largest in the county, employing 26 percent of all employees, followed by Trade, Transportation and Utilities (17 percent), Government (15 percent), Education and Health Services (each at 11 percent), Professional and Business Services (7 percent), Information and Financial Activities (6 percent) and Manufacturing (4 percent). Of all the industries, the Government sector is the most stable and best-paying. The service industry, which makes up 26 percent of the county's economy, is notoriously low-paying and highly seasonal.⁸

Income

Although San Juan County has one of the highest per capita personal income levels in the state at \$59,831 in 2014 (second only to King County at \$68,877 in 2014), the figure is misleading because of the high proportion of retirees in the community. The average wage in 2014 was \$32,383, just 54 percent of the per capita income, and just 65 percent of the state average earnings per job of \$49,610.⁹ Figure 2.6 shows a breakdown of personal income from 1990 to 2014, distinguishing between labor and non-labor sources of income. From 2000 to 2014, personal income increased by 66 percent in the county, but that increase can be mostly attributed to the 93 percent increase in income from non-labor sources. In 2014, 70 percent of all personal income came from non-labor sources (i.e. dividends, interest, and personal transfer receipts), nearly all associated with retirement income.

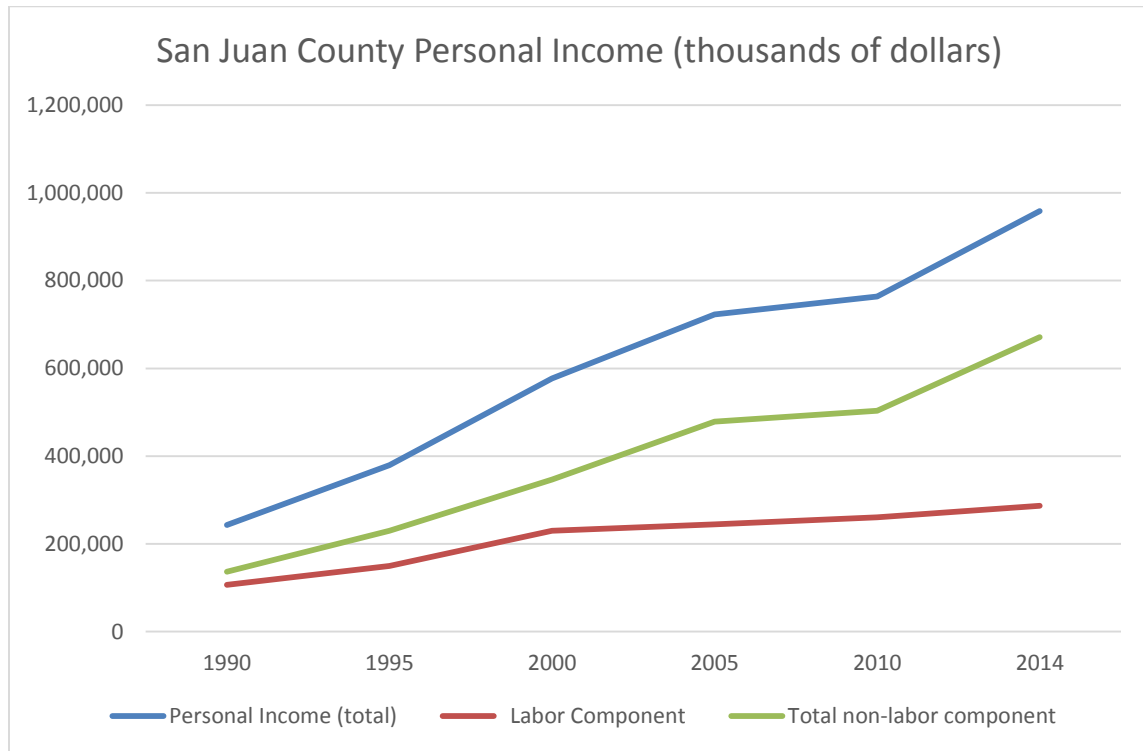
⁶ <http://www.luxurytravelmagazine.com/news-articles/worlds-top-10-ferry-boat-rides-13203.php>

⁷ <http://www.nytimes.com/travel/guides/north-america/united-states/washington/san-juan-islands/overview.html>

⁸ Washington State Dept. of Employment Security San Juan County Data tables.

⁹ Washington State Dept. of Employment Security; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov

Figure 2.6: Labor and Non-labor Sources of Personal Income (thousands of dollars)



Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov

Affordability

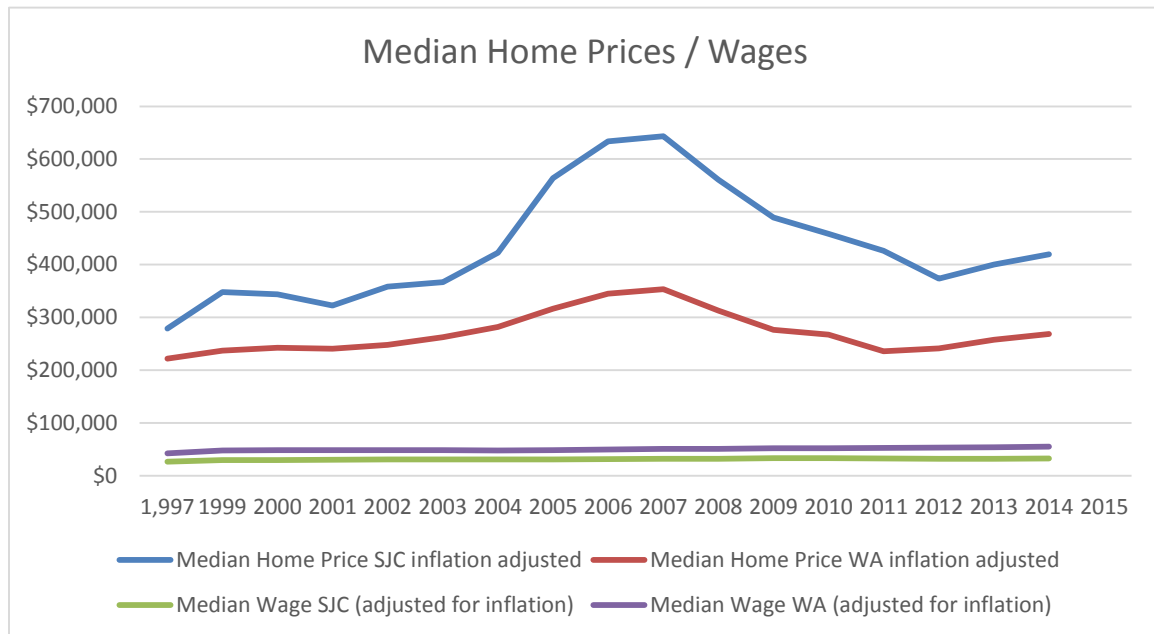
The growing income disparity in the San Juan Islands, that between retirees and wage-earning residents, has resulted in San Juan County being the least affordable place to buy a home in the state. (Fig. 2.3) Households that earn the median household income of \$55,898¹⁰ can simply not afford the median home price of \$420,250.¹¹ Figure 2.3 shows the growth of median home prices from 1997 to 2014. Even with the dampening effect of recession, the county has followed a much more exaggerated trend than that of the state. In 2015, a family would need to earn at least \$168,000 per year and have an additional \$84,000 for a down payment to afford the median-priced home in the county.¹²

¹⁰ U.S. Census, www.census.gov

¹¹ Runstad Center for Real Estate Research, Univ. of Washington

¹² Assuming 4.25% APR, 20% downpayment, Town of Friday Harbor water sewer, and a maximum 2.5 x annual salary housing costs including utilities.

Figure 2.3: Median Home Prices and Wages



Sources: Runstad Center for Real Estate Research, Univ. of Washington; Coldwell Banker San Juan County Real Estate Market Summary, 2015, NWMLS; Wages: Washington State Employment Security Dept.; Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Inflation Calculator

Local Park, Trail, and Natural Areas Providers

The various parks and open spaces of San Juan County are the primary attraction for visitors to the islands. From the newly established San Juan Islands National Monument, with dozens of spectacular properties, to state parks that provide boaters with access to undeveloped islands, the network of public parks, trails, and natural areas, including those owned and operated by the county, is a treasured community asset. Map 2.1 shows public land ownership, illustrating the patchwork of public lands that provide some level of recreational opportunity for county residents and visitors. An overview of the major providers of parks, trails, and natural areas throughout the county is provided below.

San Juan County

As presented in the introduction of this Plan, San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works all play a role in providing parks, trails, and natural areas in the county. A thorough inventory of county facilities is presented in Chapter 3.

County Parks

The county parks system includes 17 parks and the fairgrounds totaling 315 acres for the public to enjoy on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands. These parks provide visitors with the opportunity to experience the natural environment with opportunities for camping, boat launching, building rental, and special facility use. The Parks & Fair Department has a staff of 19, composed of full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees. There are additional short term Fair event staff as well. The department is assisted by the seven-member volunteer Parks and Recreation Commission (appointed by the County Council) and nine member Fair Board.

San Juan County Land Bank

Established by San Juan County voters in 1990, San Juan County Land Bank preserves areas with environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic or low-intensity recreation value. The Land Bank provides more than 6,000 acres of preserved and protected land throughout the county. Approximately 3,450 acres are open to the public, providing unique recreational opportunities on all of the islands. The Land Bank has a staff of nine full- and part-time employees (7.6 FTE) and is overseen by a seven member commission appointed by the County Council; commission members serve four-year terms.

San Juan County Public Works

San Juan County Public Works is responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of all county roads, and marine access facilities, including boat ramps, docks and floats. Public Works also plays a role in the stewardship of shoreline access road ends and development of walking trails and biking amenities in the public right-of-way. Public Works currently provides or has jurisdiction over nearly 8 miles of public right-of-way trails, 16 marine access facilities, and 35 shoreline access road ends throughout the county.

Town of Friday Harbor

The Town of Friday Harbor operates five small parks to serve the residents of the town. These include two small plazas near the marina and three neighborhood parks with open lawn areas and basketball courts. Town rights-of-way also accommodate walkers in the commercial downtown core and cyclists seeking cross-island transportation routes.

Other Recreational Providers

Other recreation programs and providers bolster county parks, trails, and natural areas. On San Juan Island, the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District (Island Rec) provides a host of recreational programs for all ages throughout the year. The district also operates four facilities including the Fairgrounds Family Park, Skate Park, Eddie and Friends Dog Park, and the La Farge Property, a primitive area open to the public for walking. Island Rec also oversees the volunteer San Juan Island Trails Committee, which actively leads trail advocacy, construction, and maintenance efforts on the island.

On Orcas Island, the Orcas Island Recreation District provides a host of recreation programs for Orcas residents. The District also manages Buck Park which includes a skate park, tennis courts, several ball fields and soccer fields.

While no park and recreation district exists on Lopez or Shaw Island, school districts and non-profit organizations provide some recreation and enrichment programs in these communities. In addition to county-operated parks on Lopez, County Parks works with the Chamber of Commerce to operate and maintain the Village Park in the center of Lopez Village. The Lopez Island Family Resource Center (LIFRC) provides recreational and educational programs for the island's youth.

State Agencies

State Parks

Washington State Parks operates 15 parks totaling 5,300 acres in San Juan County, with Moran State Park on Orcas Island being the largest and most visited of all state parks. These parks play a key role in providing boater recreation facilities, camping, hiking and shoreline access opportunities. Parks such as Spencer Spit, Obstruction Pass, Sucia and Jones Islands provide important recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

While Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees millions of acres of forestland, agricultural land, and aquatic resources across the state, the state agency has gradually transferred or is in the process of transferring much of its land in San Juan County to other public agencies. The most recent transfer of 320 acres on San Juan Island was added to the San Juan Island National Historical Park (English Camp Unit). The county has obtained 50 year leases for both Lopez Hill and Odlin South DNR properties totaling over 500 acres. The properties are managed by the Land Bank and Parks & Fair Departments respectively.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) owns over 150 acres in the county, and oversees fish and wildlife management of state resources. It also operates some recreational facilities, mainly water access sites, on some of the county's freshwater lakes. WDFW plays a key role in partnership with other federal agencies in enforcement of state and federal marine laws and fisheries management.

Federal Agencies

National Park Service

The National Park Service operates the San Juan Island National Historical Park, totaling nearly 2,100 acres, on San Juan Island. The park is composed of two major areas, American Camp and

English Camp. These lands provide ample recreational opportunities and historical site interpretation for residents and visitors.

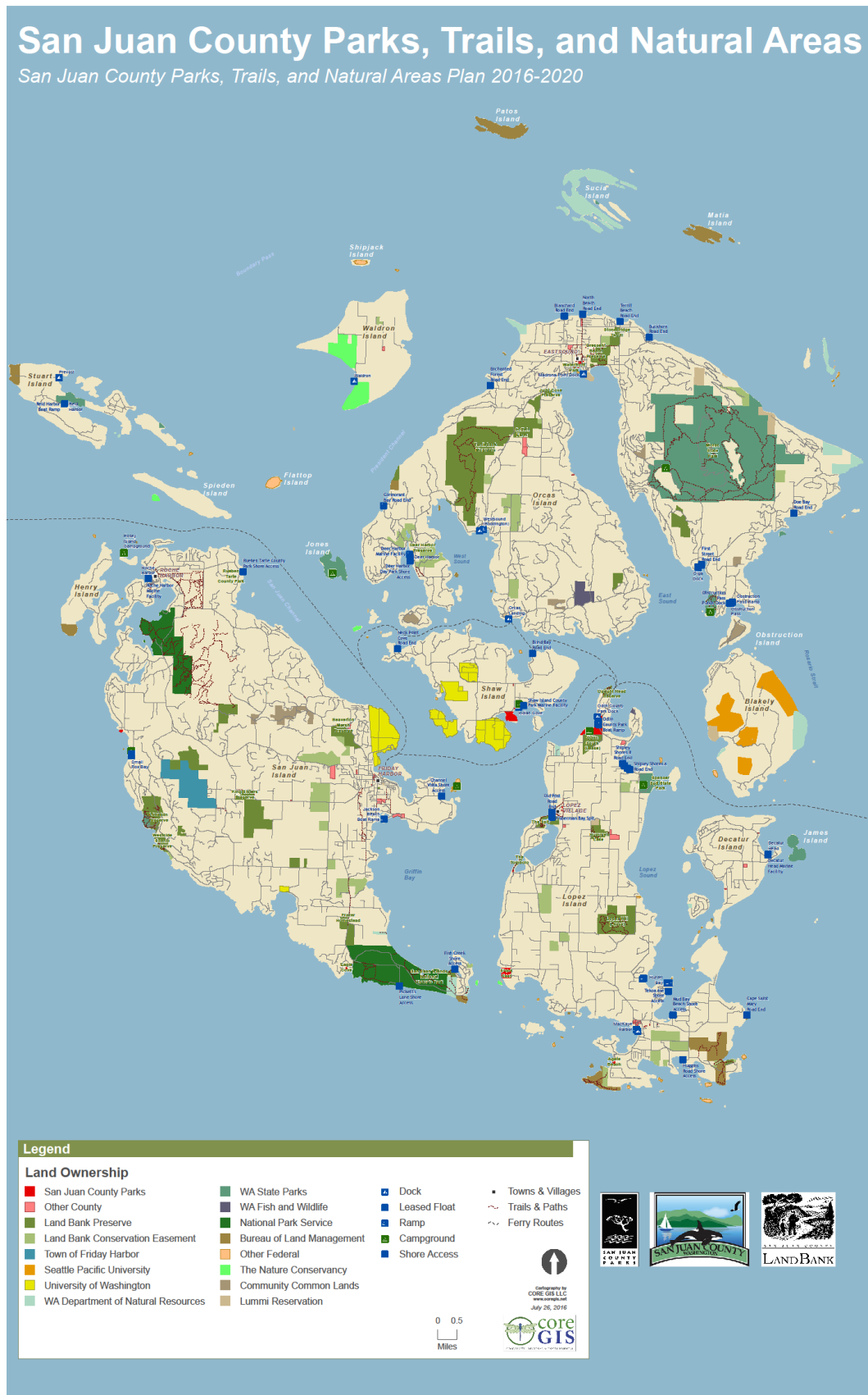
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Of the 700 or so islands, islets, rocks, and reefs that make up the San Juan Islands, 83 are part of the San Juan Island National Wildlife Refuge. Of these, 81 have been designated wilderness since 1976 and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These islands, totaling almost 450 acres, were set aside to protect colonies of nesting seabirds, but they also attract a variety of other wildlife, including bald eagles and harbor seals. To help maintain the natural character of these islands, all the refuge islands except Matia and Turn are closed to the public.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages the newly designated San Juan Islands National Monument that includes approximately 1,000 acres of land in San Juan County, 500 acres of which are located on Lopez Island, mainly at Watmough Bay and Iceberg Point. The details of the monument management plan are under development, but are expected to emphasize the conservation of the natural character of the land, while allowing low impact public access to most areas. With a full-time office on Lopez Island, partnership opportunities between the BLM and San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank and Public Works have expanded in recent years.

Map 2.1: Public Land Ownership



Special Planning Considerations

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

The county recognizes that climate change and potential sea level rise are significant factors affecting the islands now and in the future. Research is ongoing locally and at the state and federal government levels, to project possible scenarios and responses to protect shoreline resource values and adapt to changes.

Through the Shoreline Master Program (SMP), the county has evaluated the best available science to determine the scientific and technical information to be used in assessing shoreline management issues, specifically sea level rise. The Washington State Department of Ecology provides guidance in addressing sea level rise in SMPs by providing planning tools for use in considering the appropriate development of coastal areas and the protection of public resources.

The SMP referenced a 2008 research paper published by Mazzotti, et al,¹³ in the Journal of Geophysical Research. The paper predicted sea level changes for western Canada and the northwestern United States coastline based on tidal trends and vertical coastal motions.

More recently, a locally produced resource, the *Healthy Beaches for People and Fish*¹⁴ project was completed by the Friends of the San Juans in partnership with Coastal Geologic Services, Salish Sea Biological and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in addition to an extensive technical advisory group, in 2014. The study focused on the waters of the Salish Sea surrounding San Juan County. The following is an excerpt from the publication:

The goal of the Healthy Beaches for People and Fish: Protecting shorelines from the impacts of armoring today and rising seas tomorrow project is to improve the long-term protection of nearshore marine ecosystems by developing new technical tools and identifying management strategies that specifically address sea level rise and the cumulative impacts of shoreline armoring.

The four distinct areas that informed management recommendations include:

- *A legal review of existing local, state and federal shoreline regulations and their ability to address sea level rise and cumulative impacts;*
- *Sea level rise vulnerability assessment for San Juan County;*
- *Forage fish spawning habitat research; and*

¹³ Mazzotti, Stephane, Casey Jones and Richard E. Thomson. 2008. *Relative and absolute sea level rise in western Canada and northwestern United States from a combined tide gauge-GPS analysis*. Journal of Geophysical Research, Vol. 113, C11019, 2008.

¹⁴ [Friends of the San Juans. 2014. *Healthy Beaches for People and Fish: Protecting shorelines from the impacts of armoring today and rising seas tomorrow*. Final Report to WDFW and the U.S. EPA. Friday Harbor, Washington.](#)

- *Surveys of coastal managers, regulators and researchers.*

In all aspects of parks, trails, and natural areas project planning the county aims to evaluate proposals through the lens of anticipated shoreline changes, including assessing available research and recommendations specific to the San Juan Islands.

Leave No Trace Initiative

On October 7, 2014 San Juan County became the first county in the nation to embrace the *Leave No Trace* guidelines and ethic when the County Council adopted a resolution designating San Juan County, State of Washington, as a Voluntary *Leave No Trace* (LNT) Area to facilitate the protection and preservation of the natural environment for all people, current and future generations.

For over 2 years a Terrestrial Managers Group committee, referred to as the LNT core team, has worked to develop and support *Leave No Trace* education programs, including developing the San Juan Islands 7 Principles of *Leave No Trace* (SJI 7). The team includes representatives from federal, state, county, and non-governmental organizations working in the San Juan Islands.

The SJI 7 are designed to address sensitive natural resource issues specific to the islands that are not highlighted by the national LNT program materials. The committee worked closely with the national LNT Inc. during development and received their endorsement of the San Juan Islands 7 Principles wording.

The County Council adoption the San Juan Islands 7 Principles by Resolution on July 12, 2016 and remains committed to incorporating the program into Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas management and as a mechanism to increase the stewardship ethic of residents and visitors alike.

Chapter 3. Existing Resources

This chapter provides a detailed summary of San Juan County's parks, trails, and natural areas facilities. All facilities presented in this chapter are managed and operated by San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, or Public Works. This chapter is composed of two parts:

- **Inventory Classification System.** All San Juan County parks, trails and natural areas facilities are classified in one of four primary classifications: (1) parks, (2) marine access, (3) natural areas, and (4) trails. Detailed definitions of each classification are provided below.
- **Facility Inventory and Assessment.** Detailed assessments of many county facilities are provided in the second part of this chapter. A summary of management issues and recommendations for county parks is also provided.

Parks

The "Parks" classification encompasses four subcategories: Pocket Park, Local Park, Regional Park, and Special Use Facility. County Parks operates the majority of these facilities. Table 3.1 provides a summary of facilities classified as "Parks."

Pocket Park

Pocket parks are small and provide passive and play-oriented recreational opportunities. Examples can include a children's play area with play equipment, a viewpoint, or waterfront/beach access area. A small plaza or civic recognition project may also be considered a pocket park. Restrooms and parking are often not provided.

Local Park

Local parks are small to medium-sized parks that provide passive and active recreational opportunities, preserve unique landscape features, or provide waterfront access. Local parks range in size from 0.25 to 4 acres, and while no maximum or average size is recommended, their size depends on a variety of factors including need, physical location and opportunity. Additionally, these parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites.

Generally, local parks may be developed with picnic facilities, playground areas, and support facilities such as parking and restrooms. Recognizing that local park development may proceed in phases,

Table 3.1: Parks Classification Summary

Property Name	Classification	Island	Acreage
San Juan County Park	Regional Park	San Juan	12
Shaw Island County Park	Regional Park	Shaw	53
Odlin County Park	Regional Park	Lopez	178
Fairgrounds	Regional Park	San Juan	15
		<i>Subtotal</i>	258
Agate Beach County Park	Local Park	Lopez	4
Eastsound Waterfront Park	Local Park	Orcas	1
Lopez Village Park	Local Park	Lopez	<1
Reuben Tarte Park	Local Park	San Juan	5
Eagle Cove County Park	Local Park	San Juan	2
		<i>Subtotal</i>	12
Otis Perkins Day Park	Pocket Park	Lopez	1
Turn Point County Park	Pocket Park	San Juan	1
Blackie Brady Park	Pocket Park	Lopez	<1
East Olga County Park (Buck Bay)	Pocket Park	Orcas	<1
Library Park	Pocket Park	Orcas	<1
Mud Bay Beach	Pocket Park	Lopez	1
Viewpoint Park	Pocket Park	Orcas	<1
		<i>Subtotal</i>	7
Fairgrounds Family Park	Specialty Facility	San Juan	<1
Fairgrounds Skate Park	Specialty Facility	San Juan	<1
Eastsound Village Square	Specialty Facility	Orcas	1
Lopez Village Skate Park	Specialty Facility	Lopez	<1

		Subtotal	3
		Total	280

Table 3.2 identifies the minimum park amenities recommended for local parks, along with other park elements that may be installed based on specific site uses, community input, or the site master plan.

Table 3.2: Minimum Amenities for Local Parks

Minimum Amenities Recommended	Other Acceptable Amenities
Picnic tables and benches	Natural areas and interpretive elements
Pathways, paved or other ADA-compliant hard surface where possible	Community gardens
Open lawn area	Sports courts (e.g. basketball, volleyball, tennis)
Signage: park name, , wayfinding	Dedicated on-street or off-street parking
Other site furnishings (e.g. trash receptacles, bike racks, barbeques, etc.)	Playground (preferred size: 5,000—6,000 sq. ft.; serving ages 2-5 and 5-12)
Restrooms (seasonal or permanent)	Irrigation and landscaping
	Other active recreational elements (e.g. skateboard park or spots, horseshoe pits, etc.)

Regional Park

Regional parks are larger areas that provide diverse recreational activities and are designed to accommodate a large number of users. Facilities may include sports fields, extensive trail systems, large picnic areas, playgrounds, boating facilities, group and individual campsites, or large picnic areas. Regional parks often include passive recreation space and unique features such as significant natural areas or waterfront access. Support services include parking areas, restrooms, and utilities. In areas without local parks, regional parks can also serve as local parks.

In general, regional park facilities are designed for organized or intensive recreational activities and sports, although passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas are highly encouraged and complementary to active-use facilities. Since regional parks serve a larger number of users (including tourists) and offer more facilities than local parks, parking and restroom facilities are provided. Table 3.3 identifies the minimum park amenities recommended for regional parks, along with other typical or acceptable elements that may be developed.

Table 3.3: Minimum Amenities for Regional Parks

Minimum Amenities Recommended	Other Acceptable Amenities
Picnic Shelters, (minimum 1 large and 1 small per park)	Lighting
Picnic tables and benches	Sports courts (e.g. basketball, volleyball, tennis)
Open lawn area	Natural areas and interpretive elements
Pathways, paved or other ADA-compliant hard surface	Staff Residence
Restrooms (minimum 4 stalls)	Stage or community performance area
Off-street or dedicated parking	Dog park or off-leash dog area
	Visitor Information Facility
Signage: park name, rules, wayfinding	
Other site furnishings (e.g. trash receptacles, bike racks, barbeques, etc.)	Athletic fields for practice and/or games (e.g. soccer, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse)
	Other active recreation elements (e.g. BMX, skateboard park or spots, climbing features, etc.)
	Playground (preferred size: 10,000-12,000 sq. ft.; serving ages 2-5 and 5-12)
	Landscaping, with or without irrigation
	Maintenance or storage facilities

Special Use Areas

Special-use facilities include single-purpose facilities that accommodate special recreational or community uses. Examples can include skate parks, fairgrounds, community centers, and public plazas in or near town centers. Additionally, publicly accessible sport fields and play areas of public schools are classified as special facilities. While they often serve as proxies to public parks, school sites have restricted daytime access and offer limited recreational use during non-school hours. No standards are proposed or recommended concerning special-use facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use.

Marine Access

The “Marine Access” classification encompasses three subcategories: dock/float, boat launch/ramp, and shore access previously known as road ends. Public Works operates the majority of these facilities. Table 3.4 provides a summary of facilities classified as “Marine Access.”

Dock/Float

Docks and floats are landings provided for mooring watercraft. Docks may be accessed by a small or large pier built out from the shore into the water. Many of them are accessible via barrier free gangways. At certain locations, parking, restrooms and utilities (water and electricity) may be provided. Off-shore moorage may also be provided.

Boat Launch/Ramp

A boat launch or ramp is a developed area for launching watercraft that often includes concrete access ramps and occasionally docks. Parking, restrooms and utilities (water and electricity) may be provided.

Shore Access

Shore Access is a public right-of-way that extends from an improved roadway to the shoreline. Shore Access locations may be developed or improved to facilitate public use. Use may vary from providing opportunities for viewing the water, to access the shoreline and/or launching hand-carry watercraft.

Table 3.4: Marine Facilities and Shore Access Sites (Property Name)

Site Name	Classification	Island
Decatur Head Marine Facility (Hermitage)	Boat Ramp	Decatur
Indian Cove (Shaw County Park)	Boat Ramp	Shaw
Reid Harbor Marine Facility	Boat Ramp	Stuart
Small Pox Bay (San Juan County Park)	Boat Ramp	San Juan
Griffin Bay Marine Facility	Barge Landing	San Juan
Roche Harbor Dock	Dock & Float	San Juan
Hunter Bay Marine Facility	Dock & Float & Boat Ramp	Lopez
MacKaye Harbor Marine Facility	Dock & Float & Boat Ramp	Lopez
Neck Point Cove (Harbor Way)	Seasonal Boat Ramp	Shaw
Obstruction Pass Marine Facility	Dock & Float & Boat Ramp	Orcas
Odlin County Park	Dock & Float & Boat Ramp	Lopez
Westsound (Boddington) Marine Facility	Dock & Float	Orcas
Madrona Point Marine Facility	Dock & Seasonal Float	Orcas

Deer Harbor Marina	Float	Orcas
Orcas Landing	Dock & Float	Orcas
Prevost Marine Facility	Dock & Float	Stuart
Waldron Marine Facility	Dock & Seasonal Ramp	Waldron
Armadale A Road End	Shore Access	San Juan
Armadale B Road End	Shore Access	San Juan
Bayshore Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Blanchard Road End	Shore Access	Orcas
Blind Bay Road End	Shore Access	Shaw
Buckhorn Road End	Shore Access	Orcas
Cape St Mary Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Carter Beach Road End	Shore Access	San Juan
Cormorant Bay Road End	Shore Access	Orcas
Decatur Head Dr Road End	Shore Access	Waldron
Decatur Shores (Reed Shipyard)	Shore Access	Waldron
Deer Harbor Road End	Shore Access	Orcas
Doe Bay Road End	Shore Access	Orcas
Enchanted Forest Road End	Shore Access	Orcas
False Bay Road End	Shore Access	San Juan
First Street Road End (Olga)	Shore Access	Orcas
Fish Creek (Cattle Point Road)	Shore Access	San Juan
Halsey Road End	Shore Access	San Juan
Hoffman Cove Road End	Shore Access	Shaw
Jensen Bay Road End	Shore Access	San Juan
Mukosa Lane (Obstruction Pass)	Shore Access	Orcas
North Bay	Shore Access	Waldron
North Beach Road End	Shore Access	Orcas

Old Post Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Port Stanley North Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Port Stanley South Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Biggs Ave. Road End (Port Stanley)	Shore Access	Lopez
Gustin Ave. Road End (Port Stanley)	Shore Access	Lopez
Richardson Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Roslyn Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Sea Acres Road End	Shore Access	Orcas
Severson's Bay	Shore Access	Waldron
Sperry Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Tekoa Ave Road End	Shore Access	Lopez
Terrill Beach Road End	Shore Access	Orcas
Weeks Point Way Road End	Shore Access	Lopez

Natural Areas

The “Natural Areas” classification encompasses two subcategories: natural areas preserve, mostly managed by the Land Bank, and conservation easement lands which are privately owned. Table 3.5 provides a summary of properties classified as “Natural Areas.”

Natural Area Preserve

Natural area preserves are managed with the objective to preserve natural features, habitat, biodiversity, and vistas, including farmland. These sites may be open to the public and provide limited, passive, low-impact recreational opportunities, where appropriate, such as walking, hiking, wildlife observation, and respite. Preserves range in size from small pocket beaches to large forested tracts. Developed improvements may include soft-surface or boardwalk trails, parking, restrooms, and signage.

Conservation Easement Lands

Conservation easement lands are privately owned properties protected by a conservation easement intended to conserve important natural values such as wildlife or farmland. These lands generally do not provide public access, but may maintain scenic views, habitat, or working landscapes valued by the public.

Table 3.5: Natural Areas and Conservation Easement Properties

Land Bank Preserves	ACRES	Conservation Easements	ACRES
SAN JUAN ISLAND		SAN JUAN ISLAND	
Westside Scenic Preserve (1993, 1994, 2007 & 2015)	49.50	North Neck Point Cove I & II (1995 & 2002)	5.71
Deadman Bay Preserve (1995)	14.54	San Juan Valley (1997)	155.00
Limekiln Preserve (1997 & 2000)	182.36	Edwards Point (1998)	8.41
San Juan Valley (1998)*	9.78	Cattle Point Road/Mulno cove Farm (1999)	78.34
King Sisters Preserve (2005)*	57.90	Historic Roark House (2002)	0.50
Third Lagoon Preserve (2000)	20.08	Cattle Point Road/Heritage Farm (2003 & 2009)	39.00
Trout Lake Watershed (2000)*	39.45	Oak Knoll Farm (2004)	30.00
Beaverton Marsh Preserve (2001, 2002 & 2006)*	136.29	Mt. Ben/Walkinshaw & Wheeler (2004)	21.00
Historic Lower Argyle Lots (2002 & 2003)*	1.75	Cattle Point Road/Portland Fair (2004)	21.34
Cady Mountain Preserve (2003, 2005, & 2007)	129.07	Cattle Point Road/Howard Farm (2009)	27.00
Mt. Ben Preserve (2005)	21.91	W. Sundstrom Farm (2008, resold in 2009*)	120.00
Frazer Homestead Preserve (2003 & 2006)*	109.41	San Juan Historical Society (2010) HPE	0.81
Doran-False Bay Creek (2008)	39.15	Beaverton Valley Marsh (2010 & 2011)	200.32
Mount Grant Preserve	141.00	ORCAS ISLAND	
ORCAS ISLAND		Warm Valley Farm (1993)	78.00
Eastsound Waterfront Park (1993, 2003, & 2004)	1.69	Cayou Valley (1995)	108.69
Fowler's Pond Preserve (1994 & 2006)	49.32	Crow Valley (1995 & 2008)	9.00
Entrance Mountain Preserve (1996 & 2008)*	128.66	Crow Valley (1996)	133.61
Judd Cove Preserve (2000, 2002, & 2008)	9.40	North Shore (1996)	66.60
Crescent Beach Preserve (1998, 2000, 2002, & 2005)*	126.96	Cayou Key (1997)	5.00
Orcas Village Tidelands (2001)		Crow Valley (1997)	31.00
Diamond Hill (2005, 2012 & 2014)	52.44	Crow Valley (1998)	54.99
Stonebridge-Terrill Preserve (2005)*	59.19	Hogback Mountain (1998)	50.00
Deer Harbor Preserve (2006)	2.01	West Sound (1999)	158.80
Turtleback Mountain Preserve (2006)	1,578.00	Goliathon Preserve Buck Bay (2002)	0.21
Coffelt Farm (2008)	188.61	Buck Bay West (2003)	0.43
President Channel Shoreline (2012)	20.00	Olga Community Park (2005)	0.38
LOPEZ ISLAND		Orcas Artworks (2006)	0.52
Watmough Bay Preserve (1993, 2007, 2009)	11.72	Stonebridge Farm (2006)	34.00
Weeks Wetland: Fisherman Bay Preserve (1993)	23.88	LOPEZ ISLAND	
Hummel Lake Preserve (1996 & 2000)	78.60	South End (1993)	8.00
Upright Head Preserve (1998)*	26.17	Aleck Bay (1997)	245.00
The Tombolo: Fisherman Bay Preserve (2000)	6.28	Iceberg Point (1998)	40.00
The Spit: Fisherman Bay Preserve (2002)	29.36	Central Valley (2000, 2001 & 2005)	125.60
Odlin South Well Property * (2011)	2.90	Aleck Bay (2003)	11.74
		Strachan (2009)	44.00
TOTAL OWNED OUTRIGHT	3,347.38	Kjargaard Farm (2012)	95.00
Lopez Hill (Leased to 2059)	400.00	HENRY ISLAND	
		Mosquito Pass Preserve (2003)	20.50
TOTAL PRESERVE ACREAGE	3,747.38	BLAKELY ISLAND	
		Crowley (SJPT) donation (2011)	80.22
OTHER		CRANE ISLAND	
		Pole Pass (2005)	0.67
SHAW ISLAND	30.00	SHAW ISLAND	

Shaw Island parcel (2005)* sold with a forever wild conservation easement held by the SJPT		Tharald Historic Homestead (2002)	
ORCAS ISLAND		WALDRON ISLAND	
Guthrie Cove Reserved Life Estate (2004)	79.60	Pt. Disney (2000)	171.00
*Acquired for full or partial inclusion in the Conservation Buyer Program		Waldron Community Land Trust (2004)	13
		CONSERVATION EASEMENT TOTAL	2293.39

Trails

Non-motorized transportation is represented by trails to be used by pedestrians, bicycles and equestrians. The “Trails” classification encompasses three subcategories: road right-of-way trail, rustic trail, and bike trail. Table 3.7 provides a summary of county facilities classified as “Trails.” Descriptions provided below were informed by a number of state and federal trail design manuals.¹⁵.

Road Right-of-Way Trail

Road right-of-way trails are located within the public road right-of-way. Trail surfaces within urban growth areas are often concrete; all others may be concrete or stabilized gravel. Trail widths vary and are ADA compliant to the maximum extent feasible when located within the county road right-of-way.

Rustic Trail

A rustic trail is a soft-surface trail appropriate for pedestrian, equestrian, or off-road bicycle use that provides connection through or between neighborhoods or within natural areas or parks. Depending on use, location, and underlying conditions, the surface material may be native soil, forest duff, wood chips, or crushed rock and width ranges from 1-½ to 4 feet.

Bike Trail

A bike trail is a paved trail designated for preferential bicycle use and identified by signage and/or pavement markings. Bike trails are established along road corridors with current or anticipated bicycle demand and along corridors where it would be risky for bicyclists to ride in the vehicle travel lane. Bike trails are different than rustic trails in that their principal focus is on safe and efficient transportation. Typical bike trail users include bicycle commuters, fitness enthusiasts, and competitive athletes; their emphasis is on speed, which can create conflicts with recreation-type trails and their respective user groups.

Signed, separated bike trails are typically a minimum of 4 feet wide, per Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) standards. There are currently no established separated bike trails

¹⁵ Trail design manuals published by state and federal transportation agencies that may provide additional guidance on trail design include:

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, USDOT, FHWA; as adopted and modified by Chapter 468-95 WAC “Manual on uniform traffic control devices for streets and highways” (MUTCD).

Selecting Roadway Design Treatments to Accommodate Bicycles, USDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), 1994.

Standard Plans for Road, Bridge, and Municipal Construction (Standard Plans), M 21-01, WSDOT.

Understanding Flexibility in Transportation Design – Washington, WSDOT, 2005.

Design Manual, Chapter 1520 Bicycle facilities, M 22-01, WSDOT, June 2009.

within the county. A width of 4 feet are considered adequate for bikes, per WSDOT; however, additional width is desirable, particularly where motor vehicle operating speeds exceed 40 miles per hour.

Table 3.6: Trails Classification Summary

Property Name	Classification	Island	Length (mi)
Argyle Rd Path	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.2
Town to American Camp Trail	Mix	San Juan	5.5
Cattle Point DNR	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.2
Deer Harbor Loop Trail	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	0.6
Eastsound Trails	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	0.7
Enchanted Forest Road Path	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	0.3
Fisherman Bay Rd	Right-of-Way Trail	Lopez	0.5
Golf Course Rd Trail	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.3
Lime Kiln Land Bank	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	1.6
Lime Kiln Land Bank-Brinks Trail	Right-of-Way Trail	San Juan	0.1
Lopez Rd Path	Right-of-Way Trail	Lopez	0.5
North Beach Road Path	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	1.0
Weeks Rd Path	Right-of-Way Trail	Lopez	0.3
Mt Baker Roadside Trails	Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	1.2
		subtotal	7.5
San Juan County Park	Rustic Trail	San Juan	0.3
Odlin County Park	Rustic Trail	Lopez	3
Cattle Point Rd Rustic Trail	Rustic Trail	San Juan	1.3
Eagle Cove Trail	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.1
Reuben Tarte Park	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.1
Shark Reef Sanctuary	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.4

Swale Trail	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.2
Shaw County Park	Rustic Trail	Shaw	.75
Turtleback Mountain Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	7.7
Turtleback Mountain/Turtlehead Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	1.2
Deer Harbor Waterfront Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.2
Judd Cove Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.6
Crescent Beach Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.7
Stonebridge Terrill Preserve	Rustic Trail	Orcas	.04
Limekiln Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	4
Deadman Bay Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.2
Westside Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	1
King Sisters Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.7
Frazer Homestead Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.2
Third Lagoon Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	.7
Mount Grant Preserve	Rustic Trail	San Juan	1.5
Upright Head Preserve	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.7
Fisherman Bay Preserves: Weeks Wetland	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.1
Fisherman Bay Preserves: The Spit	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.7
Fisherman Bay Preserves: The Tombolo	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.6
Lopez Hill Preserve	Rustic Trail	Lopez	4
Hummel Lake Preserve	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.8
Watmough Bay Preserve	Rustic Trail	Lopez	.5
		subtotal	33.49

Facility Inventory Overview

The park, trail, and natural area inventory identifies all county-owned recreational assets. San Juan County provides nearly 4,280 acres of public land distributed among county-owned sites. Table 3.7 summarizes the land inventory in San Juan County and Maps 3.1 through 3.4 show existing park, trail, and natural area resources as classified per the inventory classification system. In addition to the county-owned facilities, local, state, and federal public lands are also enjoyed by the public, adding to the recreational opportunities available throughout the county. Some of the major non-county, public open spaces include Moran State Park on Orcas Island, San Juan Island National Historic Park on San Juan Island, lands held by the University of Washington on San Juan and Shaw islands, and BLM's Iceberg Point and the Watmough Bay Preserve on Lopez Island. Additionally, the schools of the San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Island School Districts provide open space and active recreational opportunities for the county's youth through athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and playgrounds.

Facility Inventory and Assessment

The inventory on the following pages addresses site-specific recommendations for public parks managed by San Juan County. Inventory data were completed in 2015. The management issues and recommendations noted are the result of site assessments, previous inventory efforts, staff and project team considerations, and public comments. A summary of other county properties is provided in Appendix D.

Table 3.7: Facility Inventory Summary

Property Type	Quantity	Total Acreage (%)
Park	Acres	Percent
Regional Park	258	3.1%
Local Park	12	0.2%
Pocket Park	4	0.1%
Special Facility	2	0.0%
<i>Subtotal (acres)</i>	276	
Natural Areas	Acres	Percent
Natural Areas Preserve	3,747	60%
Conservation Easement	2,293	40.0%
<i>Subtotal (acres)</i>	6,040	
Trails	Miles	
Right-of-Way Trail	7.5	
Rustic Trail	33.49	
<i>Subtotal (miles)</i>	40.99	
Marine Access	Number	
Docks	11	
Shoreline Access Road Ends	36	
Boat Launch/Ramps	10	
<i>Subtotal (sites)</i>	57	

Regional Parks

San Juan County Park

This 12-acre park is located on the west side of San Juan Island on Smallpox Bay. The park is one of three county campgrounds designated as Cascadia Marine Trail campsites. The park is very popular for camping, whale watching, and kayaking and boating. The boater amenities include a concrete ramp, parking for seven car/ trailer combinations and a kayak launch area at the beach. The campground includes 20 campsites, plus a group camp area exists in the lower area that accommodates an additional 5 sites and up to 30 people. Flush toilets are available in both the main campground and the lower boat launch area. Day-use amenities include a grass picnic area, two small beaches, picnic shelter, picnic tables, barbecue grills, benches, and walking paths/viewpoints along a wooded high bank. The view is across Haro Strait to Vancouver Island and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Park has registered cultural sites and historic cabin.

Inventory

- 2 Restrooms
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Camp sites
- Potable water
- Concrete boat ramp
- Kayak launch path
- Rustic walking path on bluff
- Shelter
- Open lawn area
- Bike racks
- Water access
- Trash receptacles
- Visitor station, office, and residence



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Develop master plan
- Complete renovation activities to Brann Cabin on State Historic Register
- Install dumpster enclosure near lower parking lot
- Renovate or replace shelter near upper field
- Acquire adjacent land for park expansion

Odlin County Park

This park is located on the north shore of Lopez Island just south of Upright Head and is approximately one mile south of the Lopez ferry landing. The park underwent a major renovation and campground road relocation in 2012-13. Major features include the campground with separate group camping area, picnic areas, covered pavilion, boating facilities, large day use area, and a long, sandy beach. The park is also a designated Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The campground has 30 sites, 5 hiker/biker sites, and one “care-to-share” campsite. Group camping

area includes 9 sites, a double vault restroom, shelter and large masonry fire ring and has a 40 person capacity. Several camping sites are located along the beachfront, and each campsite includes a picnic table and fire ring. The day-use area includes a ball field, beach access, picnic area with picnic tables, vault restrooms, and potable water. Additional picnic tables, and barbecues are located near the pavilion. Approximately 15 day-use parking spaces are available. Boating amenities include a concrete boat ramp, parking for eight car/trailer combinations, five off-shore mooring buoys, and one dock located at the north end of the park.

Inventory

- Picnic tables
- Fire rings and barbecues
- Benches
- Camp sites
- Rustic walking paths
- Pavilion
- Ball field with backstop
- Open lawn area
- Water access
- Kayak storage rack
- Boat ramp
- Dock
- Parking
- Vault toilets
- Bike rack
- Drinking water
- Trash receptacles
- Visitor information station, office, and residence



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Continue wetland mitigation and restoration monitoring program through 2024
- Prepare a management plan for Odlin South
- Repair or replace tide gate outfall
- Develop improved interpretive signage and programming
- Construct gray water treatment fixtures in campgrounds
- Construct fireplace/stove in pavilion

Shaw Island County Park

This park is located on the south end of the island along Indian Cove. The park is 59.75 acres with 4,610 feet of shoreline and includes a campground, day-use area, sandy beach and boat ramp. The park provides the only public outdoor recreation facilities on Shaw Island. The campground offers 11 primitive campsites designed primarily for tents, and the park is a designated Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The day-use area includes a picnic shelter with cook stove, picnic tables, barbecue grills, vault toilets, and drinking water. The boat ramp accommodates small, lightweight, shallow draft vessels only. The Reef-net Point area of the park includes walking trails and a small pocket beach.

Inventory

- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Camp sites
- Water access
- Wood & concrete boat ramp
- Rustic walking path
- Vault toilet (2)
- Trash receptacles
- Large play field and ball diamond
- Limited car and boat trailer parking
- Kayak storage rack



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Renovate the park per the 2008 Shaw Park Master Plan
- Develop interpretive plan and information displays

Local Parks

Agate Beach County Park

According to an on-site historical marker, the land for Agate Beach County Park was presented to San Juan County in 1948 by Seth Richy who came to Lopez Island in 1884. This four-acre park with 594 feet of wide, gravelly beach is located along Outer Drive on south Lopez. It is a day-use park with a vault toilet, bike rack, picnic tables and parking for up to eight cars. The park lacks ADA accessible facilities. Stairs lead to the beach at the north end of the park. The park has a beautiful, quiet setting with a nice view toward Iceberg Point and the Strait of Juan de Fuca beyond. Recreational opportunities include beachcombing, picnicking, and walking. This park provides parking and support facilities for visitors accessing Iceberg Point of San Juan Islands National Monument.

Inventory

- Vault toilet
- 2 Picnic tables
- 1 Bench
- Rustic loop trail
- Bike rack
- Gravel parking lot
- Entry and boundary signs
- Beach stairway
- Water access



Management Issues and Recommendations

- Develop site master plan
- Add culvert or bridge over 'V' ditch at southern trail entrance
- Replace toilet with ADA double vault
- Upgrade parking
- Replace staircase or develop alternative method to access the water
- Install ADA-accessible picnic tables with hard surface pathway

Eastsound Waterfront Park

Located on the main entrance road to Eastsound Village, the Land Bank's first acquisition in 1993 added 0.45 acres and 100 feet of shoreline to the existing county park. The property preserves views of the water from the village and allows public access to the shoreline and to the nearby, publicly owned Indian Island. In 2003, the Land Bank acquired an adjacent one-acre parcel and 356 feet of waterfront. An additional 0.45-acre property abutting the eastern boundary of the park was acquired in 2004, further expanding the size of the park and increasing water frontage by another 100 feet. The property is popular for weddings, 4th of July events, and family gatherings.

Inventory

- Bike rack
- Picnic table (2)
- Open lawn
- Water access
- Street front parking

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install interpretive panel/kiosk and bench

Lopez Village Park

Located on the west edge of Lopez Village, this park offers a public restroom and shower, picnic tables, bike racks and open lawn. Ample parking is provided along Tower Road to support the park and the nearby business district.



Inventory

- 6 Picnic tables
- Historic water tower (owned by Chamber of Commerce)
- On-street parking; 30 stalls, plus 2 ADA stalls
- Open lawn area
- Flush restroom with two toilet rooms with lavs, and two shower rooms, ADA accessible

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Upgrade to provide ADA access to tables and picnic area, include hard surface pathway

Otis Perkins Day Park

Located on a spit with Fisherman Bay to the northeast and San Juan Channel to the west, this park looks across to Griffin Bay and is a good spot for bird and wildlife viewing. The portion of the park on the east side of the road contains a lagoon frequented by great blue herons and other shore birds. The park includes approximately 220 feet of gravel beach and a paved pull-off parking area with space for about ten cars. Amenities are limited to one picnic table, memorial bench and a seasonal portable toilet.

Inventory

- 1 Picnic Table
- Memorial Bench
- Water access
- parking area

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Update park sign and develop information kiosk

Reuben Tarte Day Park



This four-acre day use park is located east of Roche Harbor on the north end of San Juan Island. The park, located along San Juan Drive, features a northeast-facing forested slope and two small beaches on either side of a rocky peninsula. Visitors may park in the parking area (accommodates up to 12 cars) at the top of the hill or drive down the steep, chip-sealed road to a drop off at a small turn-around at the bottom of the hill. A gate installed at the top of the access road can be closed if needed to control use. The amenities of this park include two beaches, a (seasonal) portable toilet, and a walking path/viewpoint atop the small peninsula. The view across Rocky Bay includes Jones, Yellow, and Orcas Islands.

Inventory

- Parking area (upper and lower)
- Portable toilet

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Upgrade (gravel or pave) lower parking area and turn around
- Upgrade/pave ADA parking stall and connection to portable toilet
- Install interpretive signage and renovate information kiosk



Turn Point County Park

This park is at the end of Turn Point Road before it turns into Pear Point Road. It includes a gravel parking lot for eight vehicles and a 200-foot, flat walking trail to a low-bank viewpoint with three viewing benches. Beach access provides opportunities for launching hand-carry boats. Potential future improvements include adding ADA accessibility with a paved parking stall and trail to the viewpoint.

Inventory

- 2 Benches
- Earthen parking area
- Water access

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install entry and wayfinding signage
- Renovate park including invasive plant removal, reorganize & improve parking, replace benches, install native plants
- Install portable toilet with enclosure or concrete pad

Pocket Parks

Eagle Cove County Park

This day-use area is a 40-foot road end that provides beach access in a residential area along Eagle Cove Drive, located immediately west of American Camp in south San Juan Island. The park provides parking for up to sixteen cars and a seasonal portable toilet. A 250-yard gravel/earthen walking trail extends to the sandy beach that seasonally very popular with locals and skim boarders.

Inventory

- Off-street parking
- Rustic walking path
- Water access

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install entry and wayfinding signage
- Install stairs leading to beach
- Continue invasive plant removal along creek and restore with native plants



East Olga County Park (Buck Bay)

This county-owned site is on the east side of Buck Bay along E.J. Young Road and is also known as Orcas Buck Bay Park. The site is approximately .56 acre in size and offers approximately 650 feet of shoreline. It includes a high-bank area that runs between E.J. Young Road and the beach.

Inventory

- Water access to cobble beach

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install entry and wayfinding signage

Library Park

This single-lot park adjacent to the library on Prune Alley was donated to the county in 1998 and developed by citizen volunteers. The donation include a strict conservation easement that preserves the park for quiet repose and establishes a sign of the Declaration of Independence. The park consists of a short walking path, landscaping and benches and stairs to the Orcas Library. It is maintained by a citizen group and funded through an endowment held by the Orcas Island Community Foundation.

Inventory

- Benches
- Rustic walking path
- Memorial plaque
- Extensive perennial and small tree & shrub landscaping

Viewpoint Park

This small pocket park is adjacent to Eastsound Waterfront Park and provides a viewpoint and overlook of Indian Island.

Inventory

- Viewpoint with bench and seat-wall
- On-street parking, 4 stalls
- Water access via rock stairway

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Replace interpretive signage



Other Sites

Shark Reef Sanctuary

Previously owned by the Department of Natural Resources and transferred to the county in 2005, the site consists of 40 wooded acres on the west side of Lopez Island, south of Fisherman Bay on Shark Reef Road. The main attraction of this park is the 1/4 mile trail that leads through the forest to a bluff above a rocky shore with views of Cattle Pass and a large seal rookery. Signs mark the park property boundary on south side. The park entrance includes on-street parking, entry sign, bike rack, picnic tables, and two vault toilets. The site does not provide ADA access at this time.

Inventory

- 2 Vault toilets
- 2 Picnic tables
- Bike rack
- Rustic trail
- On-street parking
- Water access
- Entry signage

Management Issues and Recommendations

- Replace toilets for ADA compliance
- Conduct trail and shoreline restoration in areas of wear and erosion
- Install interpretive signs



Eastsound Village Green (Special Facility)

The park is located in the center of Eastsound, adjacent to the Orcas Island Historical Museum. The site hosts many community events such as the Orcas Island Farmers' Market, Historical Days, Solstice Festival, performances, and holiday celebrations. The site consists of a 1.2 acre grassy area with covered performance stage, picnic tables, a public restroom, and nine heirloom apple trees.

Inventory

- Award-winning, custom band shell
- Restroom including ADA
- Bike rack
- 7 Picnic tables
- On-street parking, 10 stalls
- Trash receptacles
- Open lawn
- Landscaping
- Interpretive display
- Park entry sign
- ADA parking and stage access



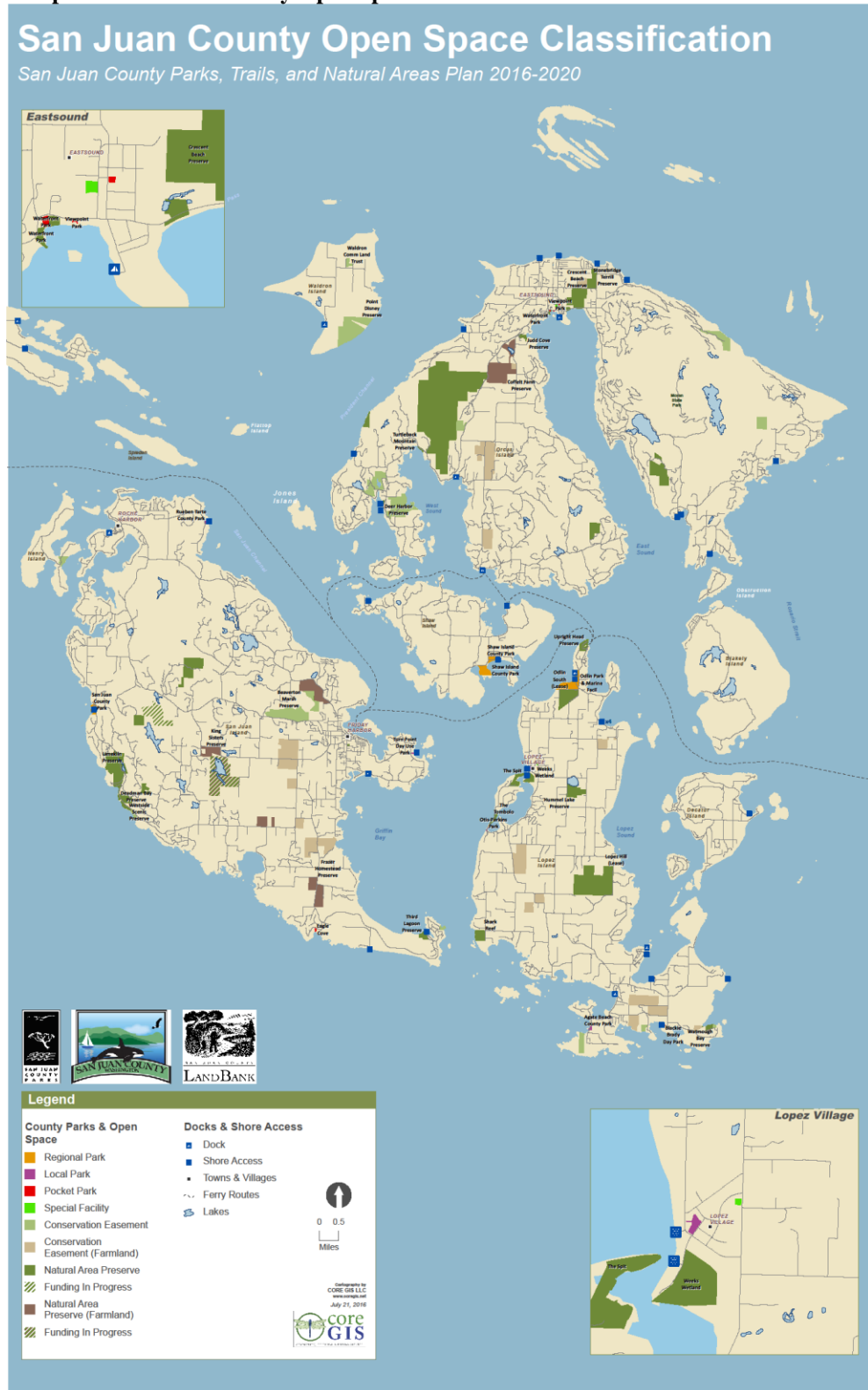
Management Issues and Recommendations

- Install water fountain/water bottle filling station
- Plant street trees along frontage
- Upgrade 1-2 benches for ADA accessibility with connecting hard surface pathway
- Upgrade and mount bike racks

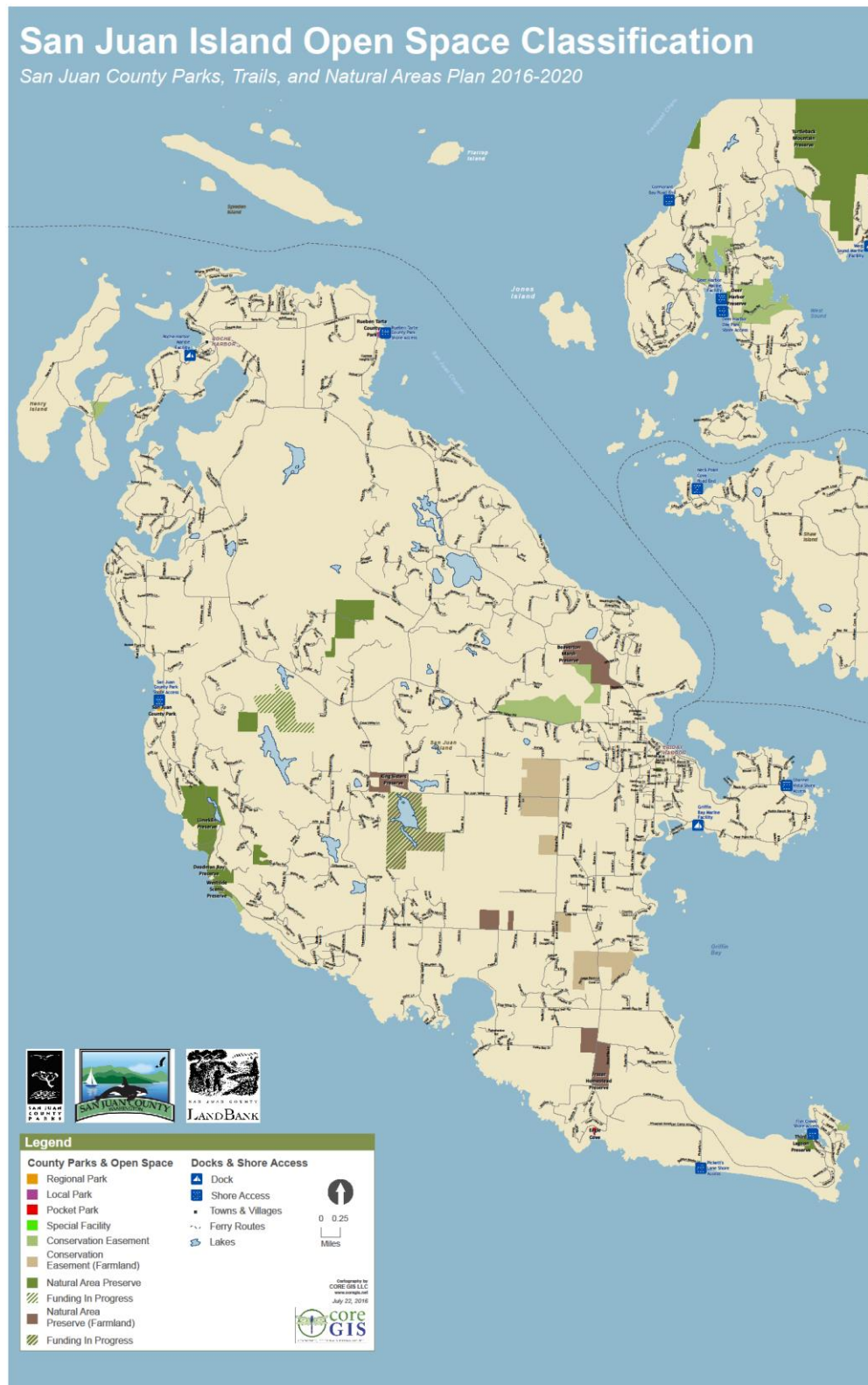
Extended County Facility Inventory

The county currently has more than 130 sites included in its parks, trails, and natural areas inventory. Due to the sheer number of county facilities, site assessments could only be conducted for a handful of sites, which are discussed in detail above. The majority of the remaining parks, trails, natural areas, and marine access facilities on the ferry-served islands of Lopez, Orcas, San Juan, and Shaw are described in greater detail in Appendix D

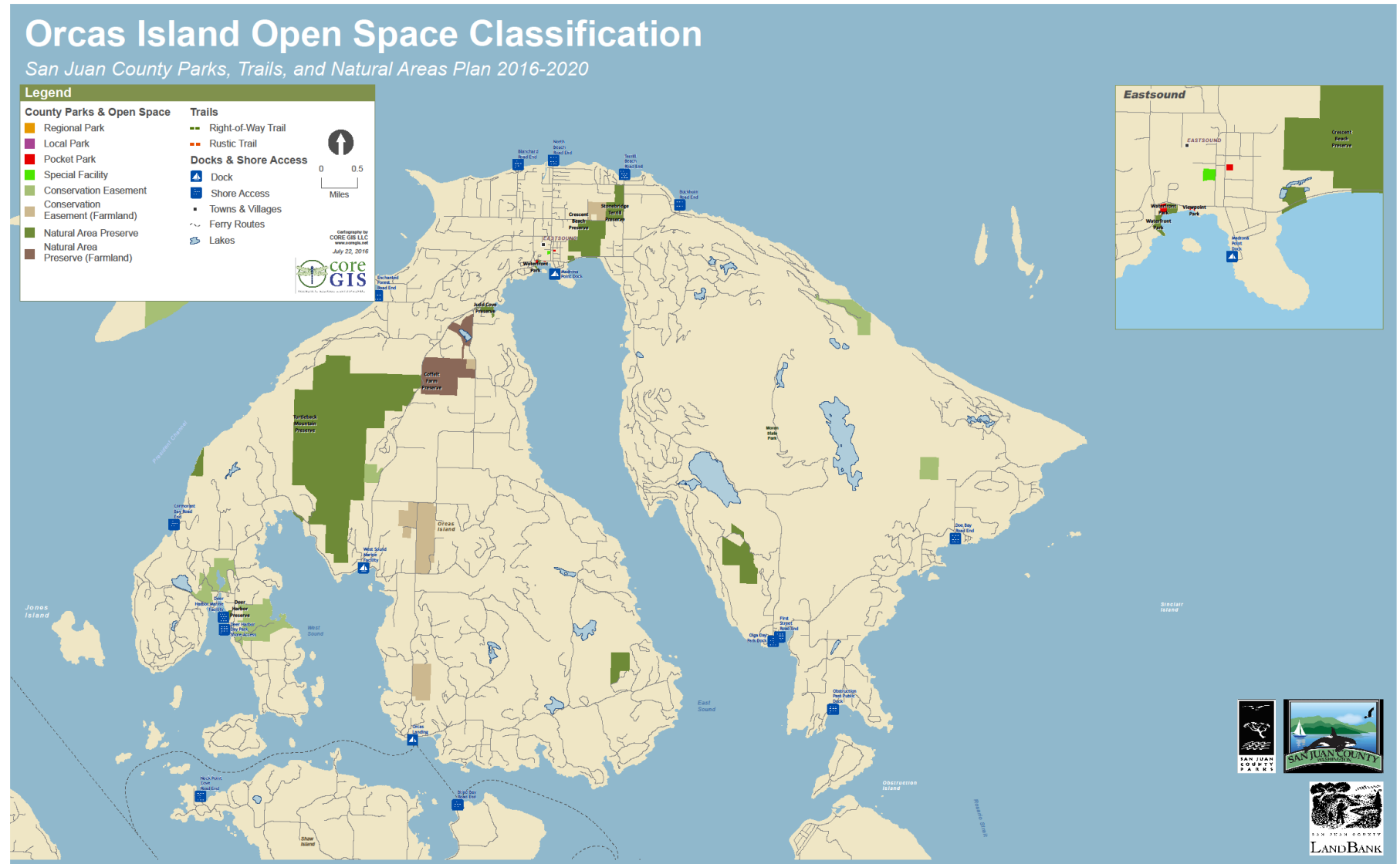
Map 3.1: San Juan County Open Space Classification



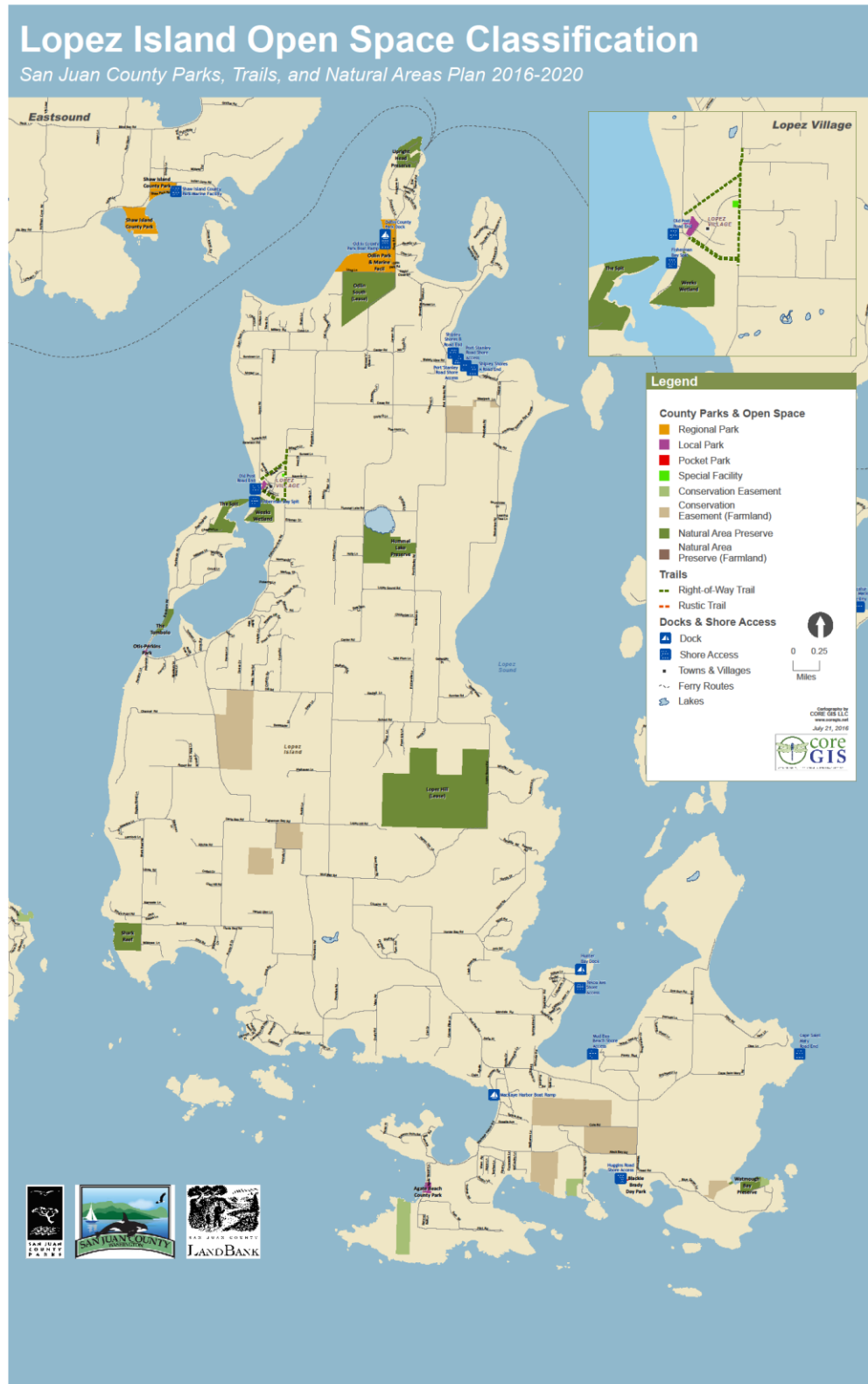
Map 3.2: San Juan Island Open Space Classification



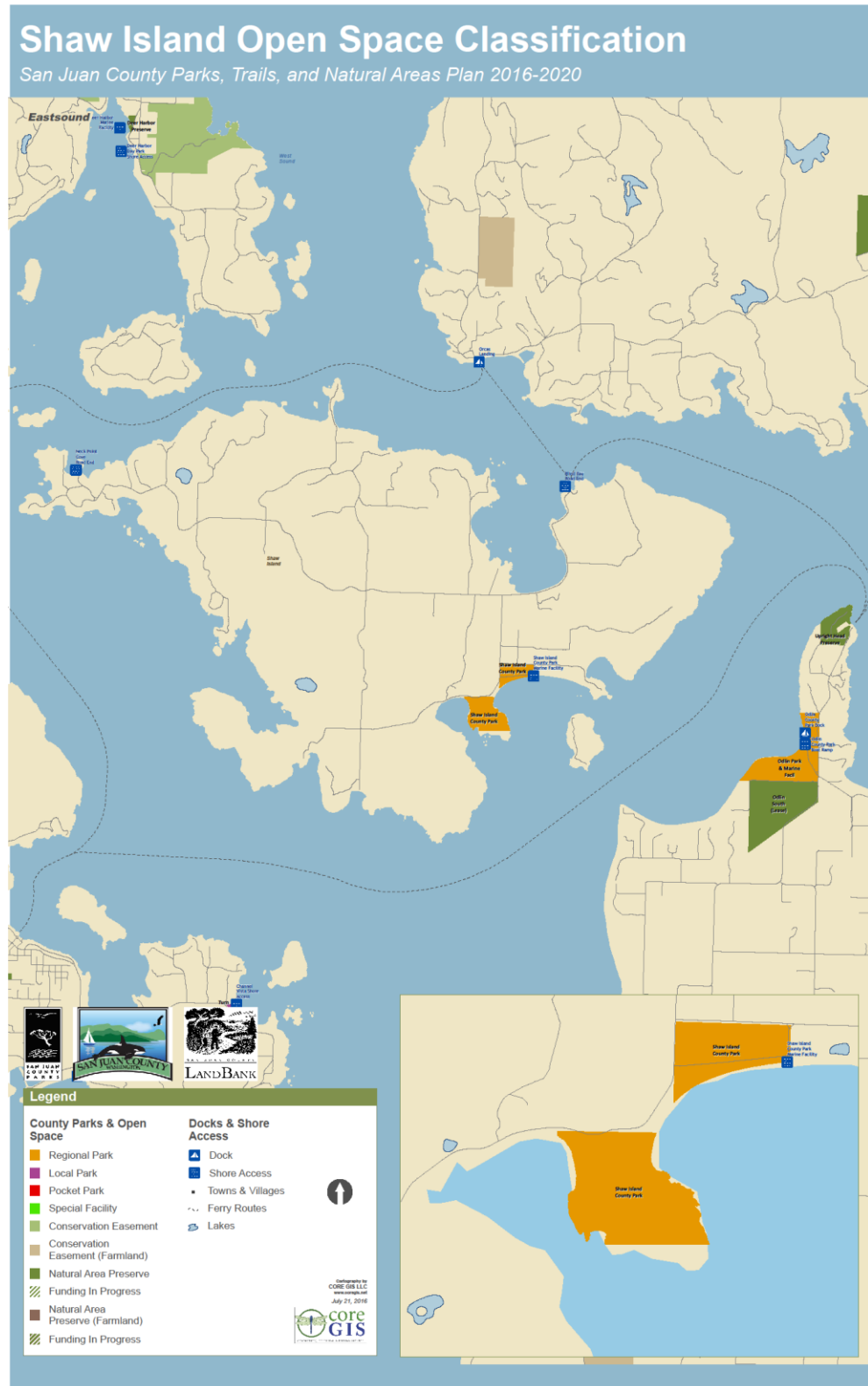
Map 3.3: Orcas Island Open Space Classification



Map 3.4: Lopez Island Open Space Classification



Map 3.5: Shaw Island Open Space Classification



Chapter 4. Implementation: Community Needs and Opportunities

One of the most challenging and important tasks in developing any community plan is engaging the public in the planning process to adequately capture community needs and priorities. While it can be difficult to conduct a thorough public involvement process in a county composed of several islands - each with unique needs and priorities—San Juan County and Cascadia Consulting Group (CCG) used a variety of public involvement methods to identify community needs and opportunities for parks, trails, and natural areas.

This chapter provides an overview of the activities and major findings of the public involvement process. It also incorporates guidance from staff, commission members, and findings from previous plans to gain an accurate assessment of community needs. The needs and opportunities described here provide a foundation for the vision, goals, and strategies presented in Chapter 5.

Public Involvement Overview

To ensure the San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan adequately meets community needs and captures the community's vision, the planning process heavily emphasized public involvement through a variety of methods detailed below.

Public Involvement Activities

Community Survey

In early March, 2016, a link to an online 27-question community survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected households on the four ferry-served islands. The survey collected statistically significant information on current use of facilities, preferred activities, and support for future improvements. 360 surveys were returned, providing a 12 percent response rate, low margin of error, and an accurate gauge of residents' opinions. (See Appendix B for survey results.)

Non Randomized Survey

A separate survey link was made available to residents who were interested in providing input but were not selected randomly. Eighty seven non randomized surveys were returned.

Open Houses

Open houses held in March 2016 on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands captured the community's vision, specific facility recommendations, and input on key priorities of the Plan. In the summer and fall of 2016, the Planning Commission and County Council held public hearings. In total, the workshops attracted 83 citizens. Workshops were advertised through press releases in local news sources, posters on local message boards and at local businesses, electronic invitations, and postcards sent to full-time residents on the ferry-served islands. (See Appendix B for workshop results.)

Public Involvement Results

Community Vision

Through a community survey and open houses, stakeholder interviews and community workshops, residents and key stakeholders expressed a 20-year vision for the county's parks, trails, and natural areas. Overall, residents expressed a desire for building on the successful elements of the current system, and shaping a more expansive system that provides additional opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and protect the unique island character and culture. The most commonly shared vision elements include:

- An interconnected system of trails and open space for all users
- Natural, unspoiled, wild, healthy outdoor spaces
- More open spaces, trails, non-motorized transportation options and access to water
- Well-funded, efficient county programs
- Productive agricultural lands
- An engaged community
- Diverse recreational opportunities
- Preservation of island character and culture
- Responsiveness to community needs and desires

Community Participation and Satisfaction

San Juan County residents are truly nature lovers—they greatly appreciate the role parks, trails, and natural areas play in the area's high quality of life. These spaces help facilitate a lifestyle that is rooted in the natural beauty of the islands, providing abundant opportunities for experiencing the natural environment. As explored below, the population, while skewed toward older residents, greatly enjoys the outdoors and highly supports activities that facilitate enjoyment of parks, trails, and natural areas.

Popular Activities

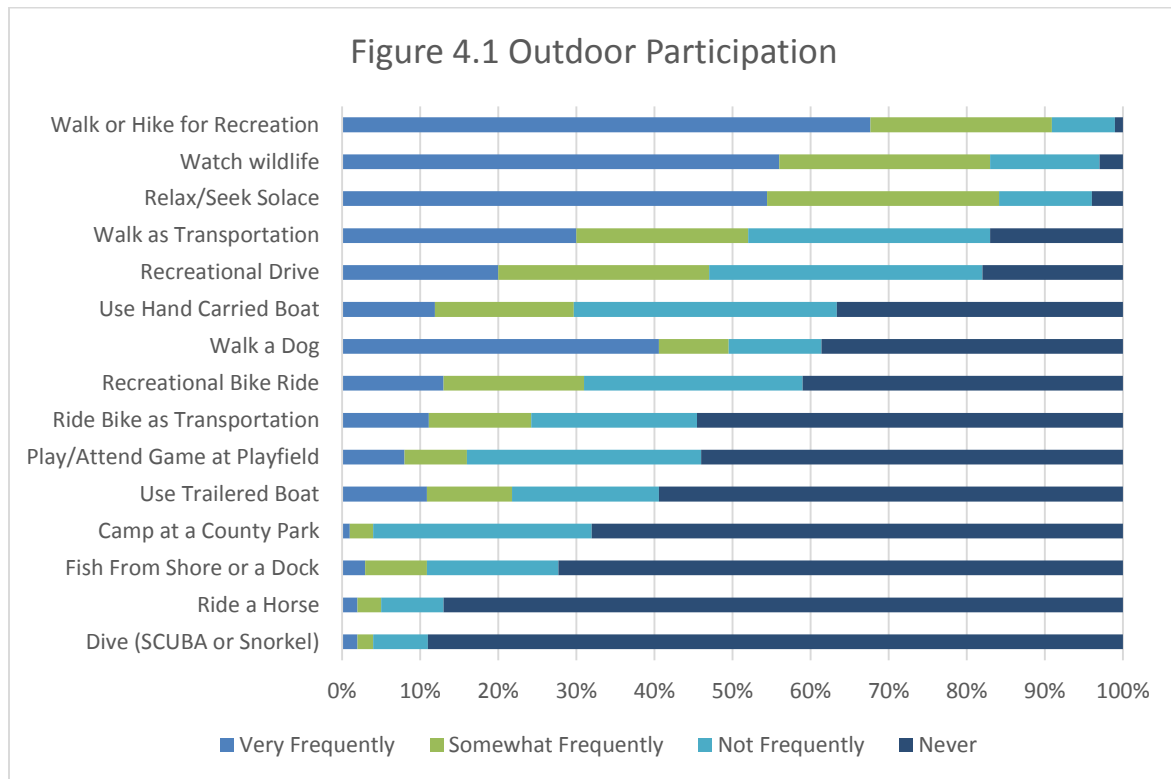
According to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, walking and hiking are the second highest ranked outdoor recreational activities in the state.¹⁶

Based on community survey results for San Juan County, walking or hiking is the top activity, with 90 percent of respondents participating on a frequent basis. While the most popular statewide activity is picnicking, barbequing, or cooking out, residents in San Juan County participate more frequently in activities such as watching wildlife, relaxing in nature, walking dogs, and visiting local parks.

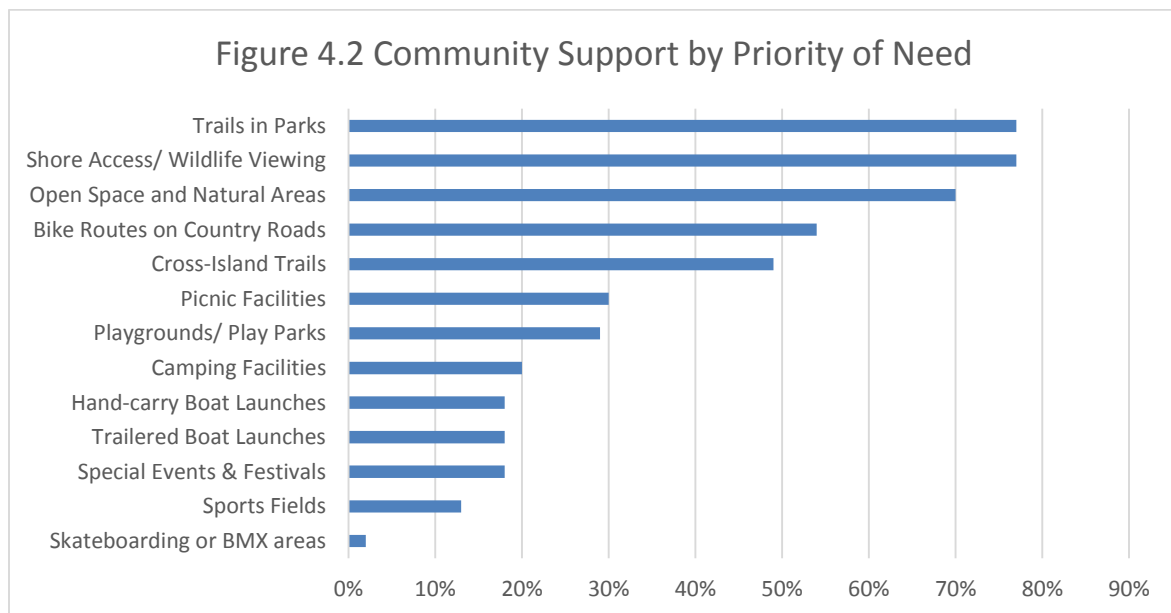
Figure 4.1 shows a breakdown of participation in outdoor recreation in San Juan County. As 70 percent of survey respondents were fifty-five or older, the outdoor-oriented, low-impact nature

¹⁶ Executive Summary 2013 - 2018 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

of the most popular activities is indicative of the older, but nature-loving population that dominates the island community.¹⁷

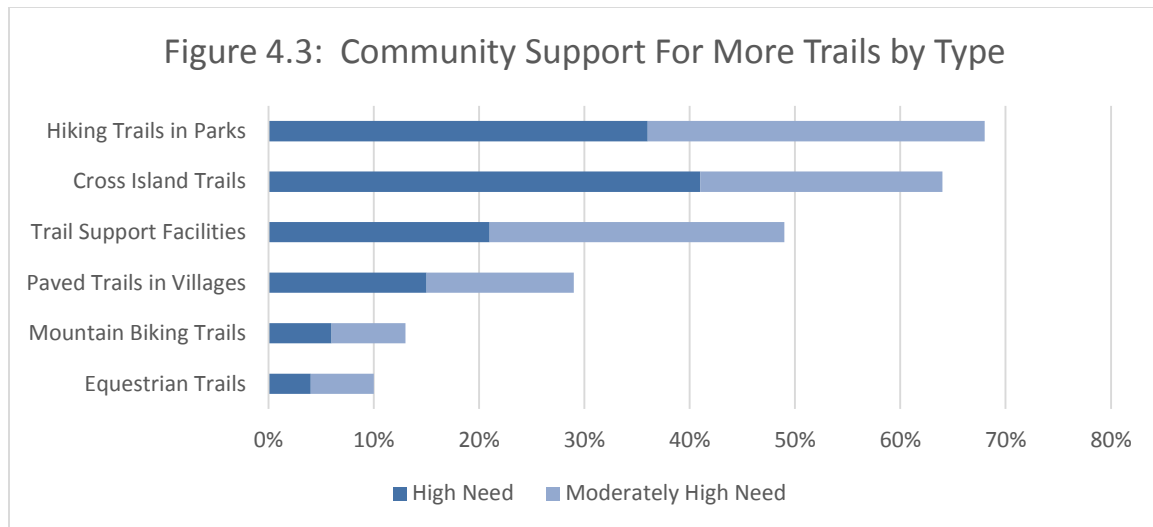


Source: Appendix B – Community Needs Assessment



Source: Appendix B – Community Needs Assessment

¹⁷ Appendix B – Community Needs Assessment Results



Source: Appendix B – Community Needs Assessment

Community Satisfaction and Support

According to community survey results, more than 92 percent of respondents indicated county parks, trails, and natural areas are important to the community's overall quality of life, whether they actually use these spaces or not. The recognition of the intrinsic value of these spaces to the community's well-being is significant. The majority of residents are also generally satisfied with the operation and condition of county-owned parks.

As far as priorities, 77 percent of respondents ranked trails in parks, and shore access, wildlife viewing as the county's highest priority services, with open space and natural areas (70 percent), and bike routes on county roads (54 percent) as also important. Respondents also indicated the following as the three most-needed improvements: (1) more trails (includes cross island hiking trails and bike lanes); (2) more road end shoreline access; and (3) improved bicycle safety on county roads.¹⁸

Major Community Needs

Through discussion with staff, review of past planning documents, and findings from public outreach efforts discussed above, seven major areas of community need have been identified. These areas of need can be broken into primary and secondary tiers, based on demonstration of demand compared to expected resources. Top-tier needs include: Trails, Land Protection, Water Access, Stewardship and Maintenance, and Funding; second-tier needs include: Program Coordination and Development and Community Involvement. Each area of need is described in greater detail below.

Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Systems

One of the most pressing issues identified through the community outreach undertaken in preparation for this plan is the need for non-motorized transportation opportunities. In its

¹⁸ Appendix B – Community Needs Assessment

broadest sense non-motorized transportation connects people to places. There is a need expressed by the community to connect our Islands together with a well-planned transportation system of multi-modal trails. As captured in the previous parks plan and illustrated by the growth and evolution of local trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands, trails are a top-tier need in the community., the County has nearly 8 miles of right-of-way trails overseen by Public Works. Residents and visitors also enjoy numerous trails on County Parks and Land Bank properties. Survey respondents highlighted the need for more trails, inclusive of hiking trails and bike lanes, as the top most-needed improvement. At the public workshops held in November attendees identified trails and paths as the top priority focus area for the county. There is a clear need to make connection, linking the county trail system together and connecting to other agencies public access assets, such as Iceberg Point on Lopez Island, Moran State Park on Orcas Island and American Camp on San Juan Island. Figure 4.2 shows the level of community support for different types of trails facilities.

Land Protection

San Juan County residents continue to support land conservation activities for a variety of purposes, such as improving public access and protecting sensitive habitat. This is clearly illustrated by the creation and ongoing support of the San Juan County Land Bank and other local preservation groups such as the San Juan Preservation Trust. Currently, more than 30,000 acres of land (27 percent of the county's land area) are in public or protected ownership. Of this total, approximately 15 percent of land is in public ownership, and 10 percent is held as private but protected (with a conservation easement). Despite having the highest percentage of land in private protection status of the 12 Puget Sound counties, San Juan County has one of the lowest rates of public land ownership.

Survey respondents and workshop attendees showed high support for land protection and acquisition activities. November workshop attendees ranked land acquisition as one of the county's top five focus areas, while survey respondents allocated the highest portion (17 percent) of a hypothetical budget to the purchase of land for parks, trails, and natural areas.

Water Access

While the opportunity to access the water is a benefit of everyday life for many San Juan County residents, it is also a necessity for interisland transport of goods. Boat ramps, shore access, public docks, public beaches, and scenic bluffs all play a role in providing residents with some level of access to the water. Overall, residents do not feel well served with water or marine access opportunities. Fewer than 25 percent of survey respondents from Lopez, Orcas, and Shaw believe there is "enough" access. Survey results show that beach and tideland access have the highest value to residents.

Currently, Shaw Island has the highest percentage (36 percent) of publicly owned shoreline, but only 5 percent is accessible as the University of Washington provides very limited public access. San Juan Island has the highest percentage of publicly accessible shoreline, with nearly 11 miles (16 percent). Orcas Island has the lowest percentage of publicly accessible shoreline with only 1.5 miles (2 percent) of the island's 70 total miles of shoreline defined as publicly accessible; these areas are concentrated around Eastsound, Obstruction Pass, and Deer Harbor. As far as other water access facilities such as public boat ramps, docks, and shoreline access road ends, Orcas and Lopez have the most boat ramps and docks; however, Orcas Island has only one public boat ramp while San Juan and Shaw have no public docks. While shoreline access road ends currently provide some level of public access to the water, half of them need to be surveyed to delineate ownership boundaries, and many need to be enhanced to accommodate parking and provide more controlled public access.

To further assess water access needs, the distribution of various public water access opportunities and residential density was evaluated, approximately 30 percent of residents live within one mile of a shoreline access road end, while 24 percent live within a mile of publicly accessible shoreline. As discussed above, access on Orcas Island is most limited, with only 17 percent of residential dwellings located within one mile of publicly accessible shoreline. Access to public boat ramps and docks is most limited, with no public docks on San Juan or Shaw and 66 percent of residents living more than three miles from public boat ramps on all of the islands (with more than 90 percent of residents on Orcas Island).

Funding

There is high recognition among residents of the need to maintain existing funding levels for parks, trails, and natural areas. Information gathered through community workshops showed residents recognize the impact of budget constraints and appreciate the efficiency and ingenuity of the Land Bank and County Parks in operating facilities and meeting community needs.

Other Needs

Second-tier needs shared by the community that support the areas of need discussed above include program coordination and development and community involvement. More specifically, residents shared the need to improve collaboration and coordination among county departments as well as other public agencies and organizations working on similar issues. Residents also stressed the importance of continuing to involve the community in program activities and efforts.

Meeting Community Needs: Areas of Opportunity and Action

With an accurate gauge of priorities, the goals, strategies, actions, and projects presented in the following chapters strive to meet these needs, while recognizing county capacity and resources.

Opportunity Areas

Trails

Trails are a top priority on nearly all of the ferry-served islands. Citizen-driven trail groups—in various stages of development—are active on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands, and they have each identified priority corridors for future trail development. These corridors, along with ideas

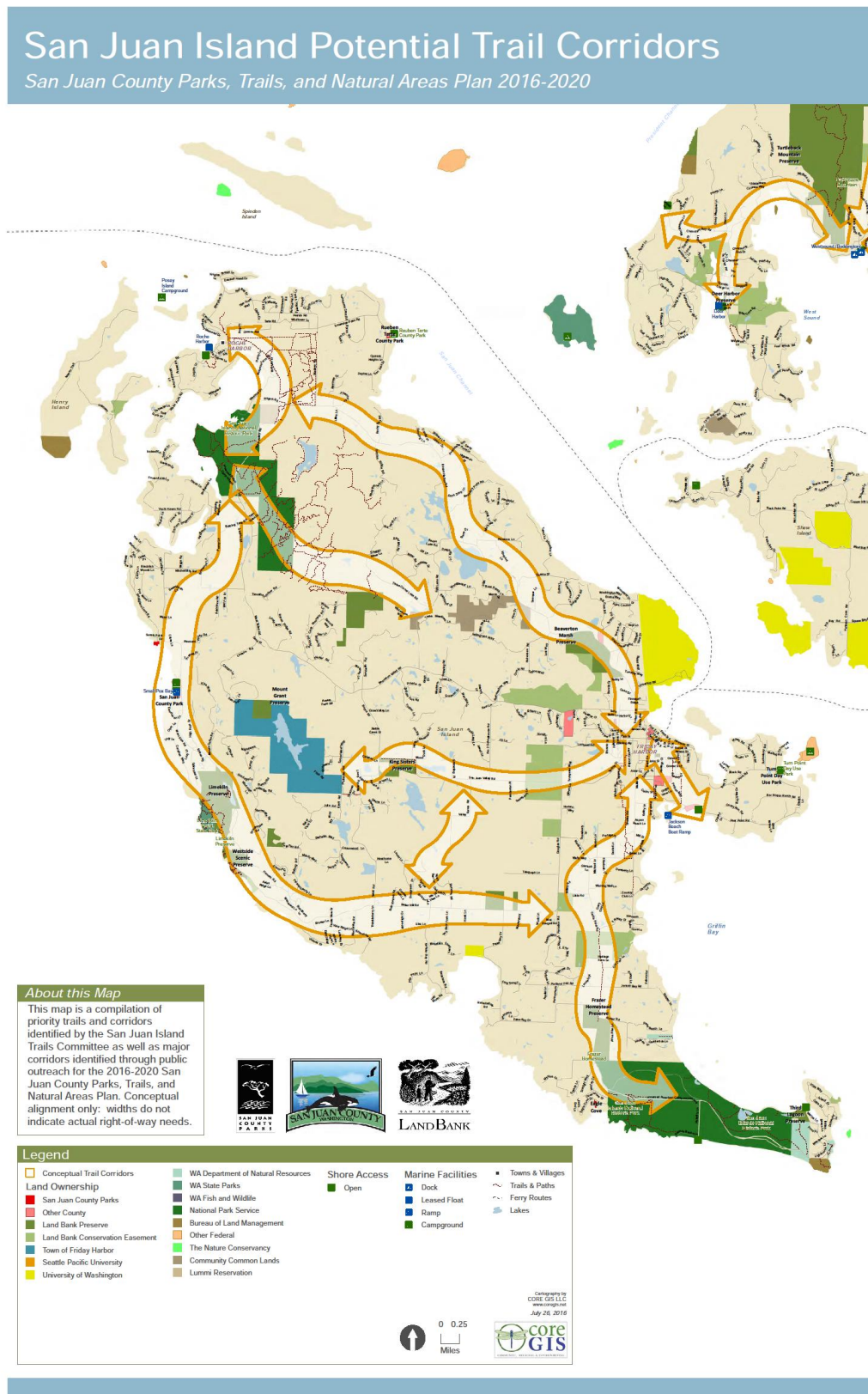
captured through public workshops, are presented in Maps 4.2-4.4. Priority corridors travel along major thoroughfares, accommodating alternative modes of transportation, as well as between popular recreational areas such as on the west side of San Juan Island. The goal of many of these corridors is to promote non-motorized transportation, provide safer conditions for biking and walking, and improve connectivity between popular sites.

Although trails are a top priority for citizens, the county faces significant challenges in responding to this demand due to staff and resource limitations. To date, County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works have played a limited role in trail development and a significant resource investment will be needed to meet the needs and recommended actions presented in this Plan.

Land Protection

Protection of the natural beauty and character of the San Juans is a top priority for many residents. The Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust have played lead roles in meeting this need for years, often working in close collaboration. In recent years, agricultural land preservation has emerged as a community priority, as a means to protect the agricultural history of the islands and provide local sources of food and fiber. Map 4.5 captures future land protection opportunity areas throughout the county, drawing from conceptual priority areas established in the Land Bank's Habitat Conservation Plan as well as the major agricultural centers of San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands. While willing landowners and available funding ultimately dictate which parcels of land are protected, the conceptual priority areas provide general guidance for future opportunity areas.

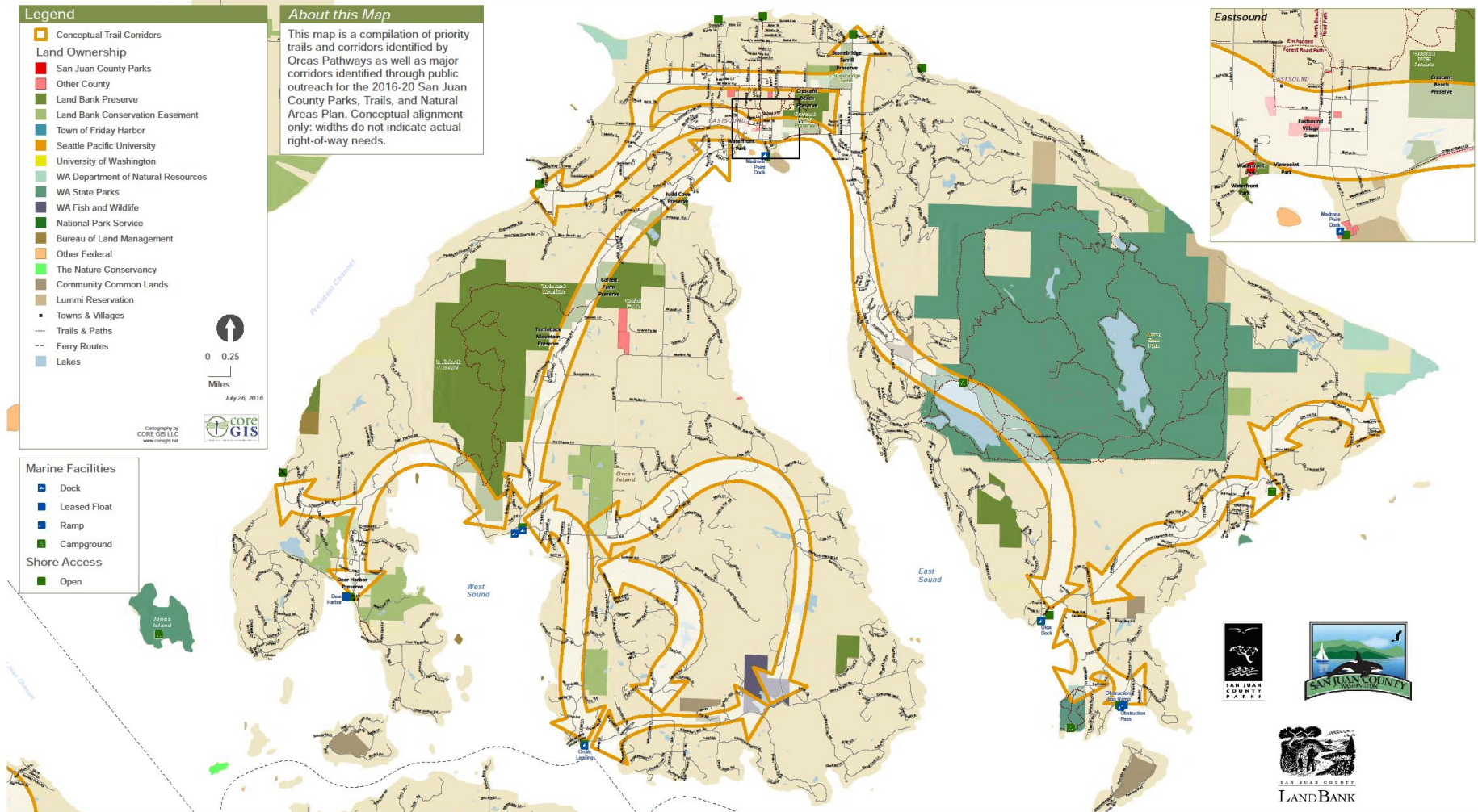
Map 4.1: San Juan Island Potential Trail Corridors



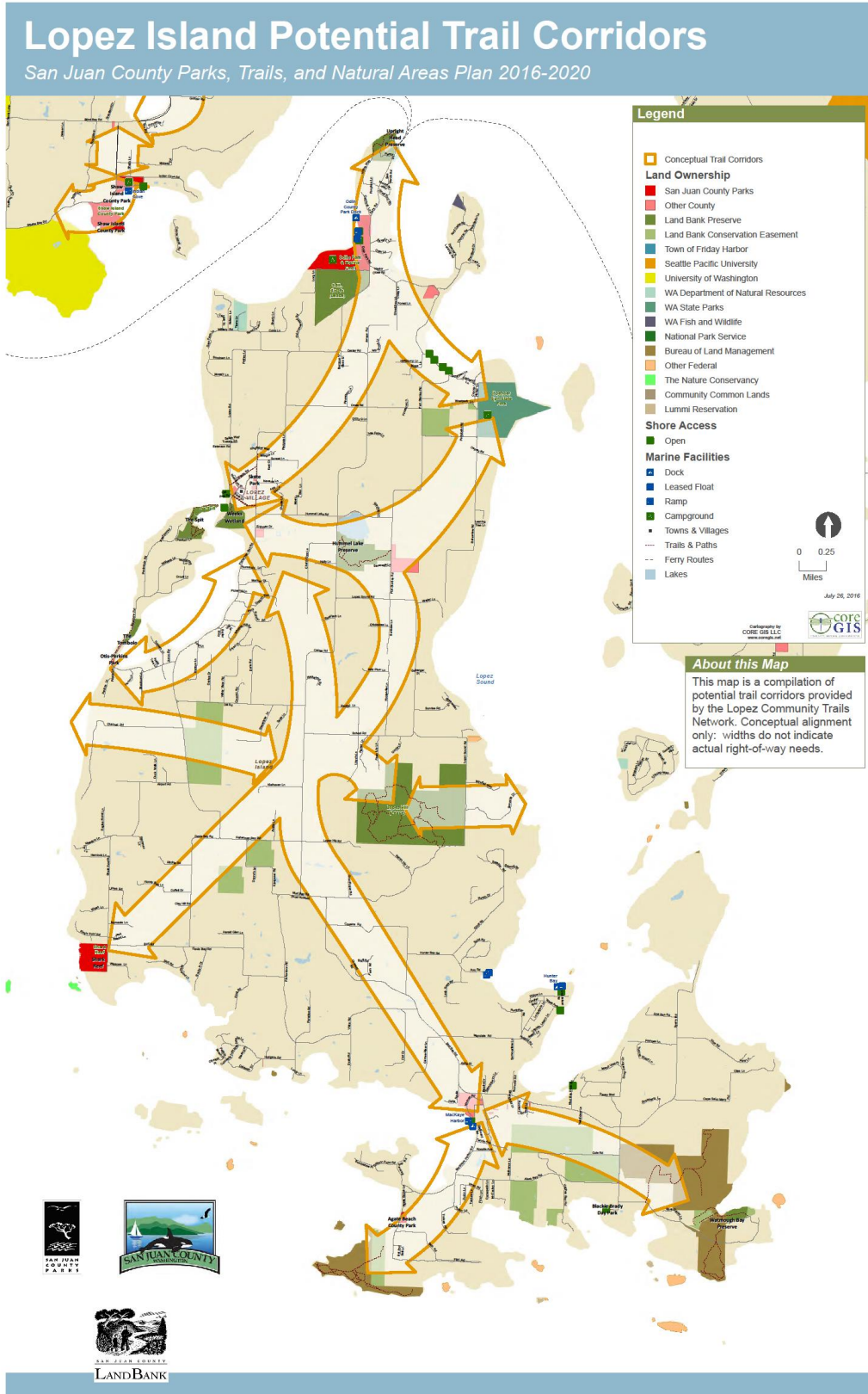
Map 4.2: Orcas Island Potential Trail Corridors

Orcas Island Potential Trail Corridors

San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan 2016-2020



Map 4.3: Lopez Island Potential Trail Corridors



Map 4.4: Shaw Island Potential Trail Corridors



Water Access

The ability to access the shoreline is essential in an island community. Across the islands, water access varies greatly due to land ownership, topography, and land development patterns. Map 4.6 captures future areas of opportunity for improving water access based on an analysis of the distribution of marine facilities (docks and ramps), shoreline access road ends, and public land accessible from the county road network. Concentration of residential dwelling units, topographic constraints, and existing public access sites such as shoreline access road ends were also considered in defining broad areas of opportunity. Orcas Island has the most opportunity areas identified due to the limited amount of existing public access.

From expanding shoreline access road ends and shoreline parks to acquiring new waterfront lands, County Parks, the Land Bank and Public Works can all play a role in improving access to the shoreline.

Other Areas of Opportunity

Other areas of opportunity include expanding funding options for parks, trails, and natural areas and continuing to improve stewardship and maintenance of existing facilities.

The San Juan County Land Bank and Parks have been innovative in meeting stewardship and maintenance needs over the years. The Land Bank has established a stewardship fund and active volunteer corps to maintain and upkeep lands into the future, and County Parks has used volunteers to meet maintenance needs in recent years. Opportunity exists to further engage the community in caring for parks, trails, and natural areas, and identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies. It is also crucial to continue to evaluate capital facility needs on a regular basis, planning for scheduled upgrades or improvements and addressing accessibility (e.g., ADA), access, and equity deficiencies.

Park, Trail, and Natural Area Guidelines

While several communities planning for parks, recreation, and open space establish level of service standards to measure the amount and quality of parks and recreation facilities, developing such traditional standards for San Juan County is difficult due to the unique nature of the county.

The large tourist population, marine environment, part-time population, and general island environment inhibits the county from taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

The new classification system outlined in Chapter 3 addresses the four major facilities types. The following priorities have been established for each:

- **Marine Access.** Marine access facilities should (1) be prioritized in areas of limited public access; (2) accommodate multiple uses and activities, as appropriate; and (3) facilitate beach or tideland access, as appropriate.
- **Trails.** Trail facilities should (1) be prioritized along the right-of-way based on road reconstruction projects, user traffic, funding, and local trail group priorities; (2) be prioritized within parks and natural areas based on demand, site feasibility, and level of existing access; (3) accommodate multiple user groups, as appropriate; and (4) facilitate connectivity within the trail network.

- **Parks.** Park facilities should (1) be upgraded to meet American Disability Act requirements as funding and site conditions allow; (2) meet the recreational needs of the community as defined in this Plan; and (3) provide a range of recreational and outdoor experiences for a variety of user groups.
- **Natural Areas.** Natural area facilities should (1) protect the natural qualities and character of the land; and (2) provide opportunities for low-impact public access, as appropriate.

Implications of Community Needs and Opportunities

The needs and opportunities presented in this chapter lay the foundation for the direction of this Plan. Although the county does not currently have the capacity to immediately respond to all of these, the strategies and actions presented in the following chapters provide the necessary policy framework and prioritization to guide county action and investment for years to come

Chapter 5. Mission, Values, Vision, Goals, and Strategies

(NOTE: Planning Commission Comments are highlighted)

This chapter presents the core framework of the Plan, and provides context for implementation with recommended actions and projects. These elements have been refined with public input.

Mission

- *To be responsive to the communities needs in providing quality parks, trails, and natural areas.*
- *To work collaboratively as a county in protecting the natural beauty and character of the Islands.*
- *To be responsible stewards of the environment and county facilities.*

The statement affirms the collaborative working relationship among county departments and emphasizes common goals. The mission statement provides a common lens through which the departments will work to implement this Plan.

Values

Throughout the planning process, citizens shared what they valued most about the parks, trails, natural areas, and non-motorized transportation systems, and what they would like to see enhanced and emphasized over the long term. Overall, five core values establish the foundation for the vision and goals of this Plan:

- **Quality of Life:** We value the role parks, trails, and natural areas play in maintaining the health and well-being of our community.
- **Accessibility:** We value creating, enhancing, and expanding opportunities for all members of the community to access our parks, trails, natural areas and for non-motorized transportation throughout the county.
- **Natural Integrity:** We value maintaining and protecting robust ecosystem processes and structure, and biodiversity across our unique island environment.
- **Stewardship:** We value being responsible stewards of the natural environment and providing well-maintained facilities and spaces for current and future generations to enjoy.
- **Sustainability:** We value taking a sustainable approach to operations and facility development that provides adequate funding to meet community needs while protecting the integrity of our natural resources.

Together, these values provide direction for achieving the collaborative mission presented above and for working toward the community's preferred vision.

2037 Vision

The community's long-term vision for the parks, trails, and natural areas of San Juan County provides a critical foundation for the goals, policies, and actions presented in this Plan. It will guide the development of the parks, trails, natural areas system and provide the community with a critical compass to guide action and investment for years to come.

We envision the following:

- *A well-maintained and connected system of parks, trails, and natural areas that celebrate and nurture our unique island heritage.*
- *Diverse opportunities for access to parks, trails and natural areas and the islands' marine environment.*
- *Protection of undeveloped natural areas to support biodiversity and ecological function.*
- *Safe Non-motorized travel routes that allow pedestrians and bicyclists to travel safely throughout the community.*
- *To celebrate and nurture a unique island culture.*
- *The provision of well-funded and efficient county programs.*
- *A culture that fosters innovative partnerships that leverage resources to develop and maintain parks, trails and natural areas.*

Goals and Policies

The goals and policies presented below provide a roadmap for the community to achieve its long-term vision. The goals capture the broad outcomes to be attained through implementing this Plan, and the policies serve as the strategies providing more specific steps to achieve long-term goals and the community's overall vision.

The actions and projects presented in Chapter 6 implement the goals and policies presented here. Goals and policies were developed and refined based on community input and staff guidance.

Goal 1: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas System

Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences, promotes non-motorized transportation opportunities and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.

Policies

- 1.1 Protect lands with important natural or open space characteristics, such as rare ecological communities, views or vistas, agricultural lands, and undeveloped shoreline.

- 1.2 Provide a diversity of recreation and transportation opportunities which contribute to healthy lifestyles (TE 6.5.G.1).
- 1.3 Design facilities and amenities to be respectful of island culture and character.
- 1.4 Provide facilities that are physically and geographically accessible to all individuals where required or practicable.
- 1.5 Develop trail connections along priority corridors and within existing parks and natural areas to adequately meet community demand, provide transportation connections to and from popular destinations and recreational areas, support the use of all non-motorized forms of transportation (TE 6.5.G.1) and create amenities that add vitality to the economy.
- 1.6 Coordinate with other public agencies, park and recreation districts, and other service providers to ensure an adequate range and supply of facilities and programming.
- 1.7 Retain existing public lands in public ownership.
- 1.8 Invest in infrastructure needed to improve public awareness, support appropriate public use, and facilitate public enjoyment of county parks, trails, and natural areas.

Goal 2: Trail Planning and Development

Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, ferry terminals and areas of interest.

Policies

- 2.1 Establish a position responsible for coordinating the planning and implementation of countywide trail development efforts.
- 2.2 Increase the number and diversity of trails including hard- and soft-surfaced trails, specific point-to point trails for non-motorized transportation, loop trails, and trails with a variety of access points and lengths.
- 2.3 Provide adequate trail-support facilities including appropriate interpretative and directional signage, restrooms, viewpoints, parking areas, (TE 6.5.G.14) picnic areas, and water access sites when possible.
- 2.4 Coordinate with other agencies, organizations, and private landowners to support trail development and maintenance throughout the county.
- 2.5 Secure trail easements to facilitate safe connections along priority corridors.
- 2.6 Raise awareness of existing trail networks and other significant trail issues and opportunities.
- 2.7 (TE 6.5.G.2) Expand Increase the number of bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian trail facilities to promote alternatives to vehicle travel.
- 2.8 (TE 6.5.G.4) Consider trail development to Improve connections between activity centers and marine and air facilities and other areas of interest.
- 2.9 (TE 6.5.G.8) Preserve rural character and scenic qualities when planning and developing trails by employing flexibility and creativity in these settings.

- 2.10 (TE 6.5.G.15) Promote trail development practices that are respectful of private property owners' rights.
- 2.11 (TE 6.5.G.7) Promote the use of unimproved roads, rights-of-way, and easements for use as trails.
- 2.12 (TE 6.5.G.10) Obtain right-of-way when possible to facilitate construction of trails and bicycle routes.
- 2.13 Encourage development of pedestrian sidewalks and trails in commercial, industrial and multi-family residential developments. (TE 6.5.G.4)

Goal 3: Bicycling

Promote the development of a safe and convenient non-motorized transportation system that accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists in San Juan County and serves the needs of residents and visitors.

Policies

- 3.1 (TE 6.5.G.12) Incorporate bicycle turn out areas into roadway/right-of-way trail planning as appropriate and to conserve or take advantage of scenic roadside features.
- 3.2 (NTP Pg. 5 D.1.b) Strive to provide solutions for road segments that present an unavoidable hazard to bicyclists. (TE 6.5.G.9)
- 3.3 (TE 6.5.F.1.C) Accommodate bicyclists on county roads and consider providing separate bicycle paths where practical.
- 3.4 (TE 6.5.F.h) Use the appropriate design guidelines, recommendations and standards for accommodating bicyclists on county trails.
- 3.5 (TE 6.5.F.1.f) Include parking facilities for bicycles in public transportation facility plans and encourage commercial development and other traffic generators to locate bicycle parking facilities away from pedestrian paths.
- 3.6 (TE 6.5.F.1.a) Promote bicycling safety by publicizing the importance of safe riding practices when bicycling in the islands and providing bicycling safety information to bicycle clubs, tour operators and those who provide accommodations and services to island visitors.
- 3.7 (TE 6.5.F.1.j) Evaluate the potential to improve safety by reducing the speed limits on high use or other county road segments with unique characteristics considering the legality, usage, season, events and practicality.
- 3.8 (TE 6.5.F.1.d) Sweep road shoulders regularly to facilitate safe use by bicyclists.
- 3.9 (TE 6.5.F.1.i) Promote enforcement of road rules and speed limits, and education the public how to share the road safety.
- 3.10 Evaluate old roadways and paved areas for reuse as bicycle or pedestrian travel-ways.

Goal 4: Land Protection

Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.

Policies

- 4.1 Identify and prioritize potential lands for public land acquisition or private protection efforts based on alignment with the vision, goals, and objectives of this Plan as well as other county adopted plans.
- 4.2 Identify and secure funding from a diversity of public and private sources to support land protection efforts.
- 4.3 Facilitate coordination and communication among public agencies and private organizations to identify common land protection targets.

Goal 5: Water Access

Provide and improve safe public access to fresh and salt water shorelines and waterways.

Policies

- 5.1 Improve and expand shoreline access opportunities through the provision or enhancement of community docks, **public mooring buoys**, boat ramps/launches, access points, right of way, viewpoints, and waterfront parks and open spaces.
- 5.2 Improve county facilities that provide water access to accommodate barrier free access where feasible.
- 5.3 Provide easily accessible public information on available water access sites and install identifying signage at sites where appropriate **to delineate public land boundaries**.
- 5.4 Improve connectivity between shore access locations and existing non-motorized transportation networks and trail systems.
- 5.5 Coordinate with marine trail organizations to provide public information and facilities, including transboundary connection information.

Goal 6: Stewardship and Maintenance

Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.

Policies

- 6.1 Implement existing **site-specific** master and management plans, and identify planning needs.
- 6.2 Invest in preventative maintenance and upgrades to facilities to maximize long-term benefits.
- 6.3 Consider and plan for long-term maintenance costs associated with acquisition, development, and renovation of parks, trails, and natural areas.

- 6.4 Maintain, enhance, and restore native vegetation, habitat function, and other ecological values on county lands.
- 6.5 Expand ability to steward and maintain land through building stewardship networks on all of the islands.
- 6.6 Support and encourage the development of volunteer programs to help maintain and steward county parks, trails, and natural areas.
- 6.7 Assess current facilities and new developments to create barrier free access.
- 6.8 Invest in sustainable design/operation principles and methods for county facilities.

Goal 7: Funding

Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system.

Policies

- 7.1 Consider and adopt funding measures to support parks, trails, and natural areas programs for long term program sustainability.
- 7.2 Enhance county capacity to coordinate, research, apply for, and secure public and private grants for expansion, maintenance, and development of parks, trails, and natural areas.
- 7.3 Develop partnerships with other public and private organizations and state and federal agencies to leverage funding to support parks, trails, and natural areas activities and programs.
- 7.4 Raise community awareness of funding shortfalls and major issues that hinder the implementation of this Plan.
- 7.5 (TE 6.5.G.3) Evaluate financing mechanisms and sources to expand and prioritize funding opportunities for trail and bicycle route development.
- 7.6 (TE 6.5.G.6) Design trails to comply with local state and federal standards as necessary for compliance with funding requirements.
- 7.7 (TE 6.5.F.g) Continue to implement a variety of county park user fees, including commercial recreation provider fees, to support park operations.
- 7.8 Explore appropriate public and private funding opportunities to support county trails planning and development efforts.
- 7.9 Evaluate required standards associated with grant funding to determine if funding sources are suitable for the desired project.
- 7.10 Budget for a position needed to plan and implement countywide trail development projects.

Goal 8: Partnerships and Collaboration

Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers (i.e. Terrestrial Managers Group) to improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.

Policies

- 8.1 Facilitate coordination of County Parks and service providers to share and coordinate goals and projects.
- 8.2 Facilitate intra-county departmental coordination and project completion through regular meeting of department leadership.
- 8.3 Explore partnership opportunities with the Terrestrial Managers Group and Stewardship Network of the San Juans.
- 8.4 (TE 6.5.G.2 split into PTNA goal 2 and 8) Partner with local trail organizations such as the San Juan Island Trails Committee, Orcas Pathways and Lopez Community Trails Network, and state and federal partners.
- 8.5 Support and coordinate with local and regional conservation corps (i.e. SJYCC, WCC, SCA, and NYC) to provide project development support, grant resources, and maintenance and construction of trails. (TE 6.5.G.2)”

Goal 9: Community Engagement

Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of county services.

Policies

- 9.1 Support positive stewardship through a variety of programs and information sources.
- 9.2 Provide and foster opportunities for public education about local history, culture, and natural history at county facilities.
- 9.3 Involve residents and stakeholders in the planning, design, and development of county park, trail, and recreation facilities.
- 9.4 Increase awareness of activities through a variety of methods including community events and effective use of print and online media.
- 9.5 Support the development of strong community-based programs that foster citizen participation and garner support for county programs.
- ~~9.6 (TE 6.5.F.a) Promote bicycling safety by publicizing the importance of safe riding practices when bicycling in the islands and provide bicycling safety information to bicycle clubs, tour operators and those who provide accommodations and services to island visitors. **Note merged with old 9.10, new 9.9**~~
- 9.6 Implement and promote “Leave No Trace” programs.
- 9.7 Encourage residents and visitors to adopt the “Leave No Trace” ethic in stewardship of San Juan Islands.
- 9.8 Foster the development and capacity of local volunteer trail groups to help with trails planning efforts, garner community support, leverage community resources, and play a role in stewardship and maintenance of trail facilities.
- 9.9 Continue to promote “Share the Road” concepts for both vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists and non-motorized modes of transportation to foster recognition of rights and

responsibilities in the use of county roads by providing bicycling safety information to bicycle clubs, tour operators and those who provide accommodations and services to island visitors. (TE 6.5.F.b)

Chapter 6. Implementation: Recommended Actions and Projects

The community's long-term vision, goals, and strategies for San Juan County's parks, trails, and natural areas can only become a reality with the implementation of a realistic plan that establishes a clear road map of priority actions and projects to be completed over time. This chapter provides that road map by including the following elements:

- **Implementation Actions.** The actions presented below implement the Plan's goals and policies through specific on-the-ground actions and projects over a six-year period and beyond. Actions have been prioritized based on county resource limitations.
- **Six-year Capital Facilities Plan.** The Capital Facilities Plan lists all park, trail, and natural area projects proposed for the next six years. Projects have been prioritized based on criteria discussed below.
- **Summary of Funding Opportunities.** A brief overview of local, state, and federal funding sources provides a snapshot of the universe of funding opportunities available to implement the priority actions and projects presented in this Plan.

Action Items

As discussed in Chapter 4, the public involvement process provided a clear assessment of community needs and priorities, stressing the importance of trails, water access, land protection, stewardship and maintenance, and funding. The planning framework presented in Chapter 5 provides a foundation to comprehensively address the majority of these needs. The actions and projects presented here implement the long-term vision, goals, and policies that form the foundation of this Plan.

To provide a realistic six-year work plan for the county, the actions presented below have been prioritized based on the county's present and anticipated resource capacity:

- **Top-tier Actions.** Top-tier actions are considered a top priority for the county; the county likely has the resources at hand to implement these actions or is committed to finding the resources given the high level of community demand.
- **Second-tier Actions.** Second-tier actions are priority items that exceed current or anticipated short-term capacity for the county, but require additional resources to be completed. Top- and second-tier actions are organized by goal area below

Goal 1: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas System.

Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences, promotes non-motorized transportation opportunities and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.

Top-Tier Actions

- Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools such as land or conservation easement purchase, funding from mitigation projects, and private donations.
- Continue collaboration with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to enhance and expand facilities and partnership opportunities, e.g., between Agate Beach and Iceberg Point.
- Collaborate with other public agencies, such as BLM, SJINHP, WDNR and WA State Parks, to leverage existing resources and pursue funding opportunities to attain common goals associated with various parks, trails and natural areas.
- Identify existing public lands that could provide enhanced public access opportunities, especially public lands with water access.
- Implement existing master plan for Shaw County Park
- Develop San Juan Park Master Plan.
- Continue to invest in new signage and basic infrastructure (parking, bike racks, stairs and restrooms) as identified in the capital facilities plan and as demonstrated by regular site assessments.
- Create and enhance non-motorized connections between existing public lands, activity centers and other areas of interest.

Goal 2: Trail Planning and Development.

Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, and other areas of interest.

Top-Tier Actions

- Establish a position responsible for coordinating trail planning and development, including collaborating with partner agencies and organizations, and funding development.
- Construct priority trail projects identified in Land Bank Preserve Management Plans, Capital Facilities Plan, and Public Works Six Transportation Improvement Program.
- Develop criteria to determine the type of trail most suited for the type of user and trail location.
- Prioritize needed trail-support facilities (e.g., restrooms, parking) in areas of high traffic and use.
- Encourage collaboration among volunteer trail groups to facilitate sharing and leveraging of knowledge and resources.
- Expand the Land Bank's role in securing trail easements to facilitate trail development.
- Pursue right-of-way acquisitions associated with Public Works capital projects for non-motorized purposes.

Second-Tier Actions

- Develop and provide countywide trail and public land maps for public distribution in conjunction with state and federal partners.
- Explore opportunities to develop a comprehensive countywide trails plan.
- Convene a meeting between relevant county staff and the Orcas, San Juan and Lopez trails groups, the Town of Friday Harbor, and Port Districts on each island to review highlights of the Plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Work with local trails groups to identify priority corridors for trail easements and explore feasibility of developing a “trail easement toolkit” to help landowners make educated decisions about donation of trail easements.

Goal 3: Bicycling

Promote the development of a safe and convenient non-motorized transportation system that accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists in San Juan County and serves the needs of residents and visitors.

Top-Tier Actions

- Evaluate old roadways and paved areas for re-use as bicycle or pedestrian travel-ways.
- Maintain road shoulders for non-motorized transportation opportunities by insuring striping provides adequate shoulder width and vegetation does not interfere with the access or visibility.
- Add road shoulders to major collector road improvement projects to provide bike lanes.

Second-Tier Actions

- Create a county wide bike map, with coordination between other agencies and organizations.
- Establish a trail coordinator works with community trails groups to assist with prioritizing projects.

Goal 4: Land Protection.

Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.

Top-Tier Actions

- Explore park expansion opportunities at San Juan Island County Park.
- Secure permanent protection of the DNR-leased lands at Lopez Hill and Odlin South on Lopez Island.
- Pursue agricultural land protection opportunities in Crow Valley on Orcas Island, Center Valley on Lopez Island, and San Juan Valley on San Juan Island.
- Finalize Zylstra Lake acquisition

- Expand opportunities for public shoreline access on Orcas Island, specifically along each side of Eastsound and in the North Beach area.
- Pursue additional land protection opportunities in areas of high habitat value as identified in the Land Bank's 2008-2014 Habitat Conservation Plan.

Second-Tier Actions

- Convene regular meetings with state and federal agencies and local private organizations with county land protection interests to identify common opportunities.

Goal 5: Water Access:

Provide and improve safe public access to fresh and salt water shorelines and waterways.

Top-Tier Actions

- Continue to fund and implement the Shore Access Program through the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program.
- Utilize Shore Access Program priority array to determine project development priorities.

Second-Tier Actions

- Publish a county wide Shore Access Map, work with other public agencies to create a comprehensive map that shows all public opportunities for access to fresh and saltwater.
- Develop shore access site management guidelines and ordinances if needed.

Goal 6: Stewardship and Maintenance.

Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.

Top-Tier Actions

- Develop management and public access plans for Cady Mountain, Odlin South, and Mt. Ben.
- Prioritize backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects.
- Continue to invest in the Land Bank's stewardship fund to ensure funding is available for future maintenance and stewardship needs.
- Identify resource-sharing opportunities among county departments to meet stewardship needs.
- Coordinate with trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez to maintain and steward existing trails.
- Encourage fee-for-service and volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on county lands from a variety of groups such as Lopez, San Juan, and Orcas Island Youth Conservation Corps and other service clubs and individual volunteers..

Second-Tier Actions

- Emphasize “low-impact development” and sustainable design techniques in the design and construction of future facilities.
- Plan for meeting disability access standards in the upgrade and future development of facilities.
- Maintain and periodically update capital facilities plan to reassess priority and cost of planned projects.

Goal 7: Funding.

Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system.

Top-Tier Actions

- Maintain levels of county funding for parks, trails, and natural areas programs to sustain programs over time.
- Regularly assess existing fee structures to ensure adequate revenue generation.
- Continue to pursue state and federal grants and leverage local funding to support planned park, trail, and natural area projects.

Second-Tier Actions

- Conduct further research into local funding options to support county parks and trail development efforts.
- Explore opportunities to cultivate local philanthropic support through means such as capital campaigns for special park, trail, and natural area projects.
- Utilize local media and education materials to strategically raise awareness and educate the community about funding issues and opportunities.

Goal 8: Partnerships and Collaboration.

Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers to improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.

Top-Tier Actions

- Identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies operating in the county to improve service delivery and make operations more efficient.
- Hold regular leadership meetings between San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public
- Works to coordinate projects and stay updated on issues and opportunities of mutual interest.
- Establish subcommittee meeting of members of the Park and Recreation Commission and
- Land Bank Commission.

- Coordinate with the Scenic Byway on project implementation opportunities following the completion of the Byway's Corridor Management Plan.

Second-Tier Actions

- Hold biennial forum of park and recreation service providers, at a minimum including County Parks, Land Bank, park and recreation districts on San Juan and Orcas islands, and relevant state and federal agencies.
- Coordinate the timing of surfacing high priority Parks and Land Bank projects with Public Works' annual chipseal program to effectively leverage county resources.

Goal 9: Community Engagement.

Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of county services.

Top-Tier Actions

- Create a webpage on the county website that provides an overview of this Plan, and includes updates on progress toward goals, strategies, and actions.
- Provide regular communication and updates through the county website on volunteer opportunities and events.
- Provide regular public meetings and comment opportunities on county plans and activities coordinated jointly between Public Works, Land Bank and Parks.
- Make use of current technology trends and online advances to facilitate community outreach.

Second-Tier Actions

- Implement an environmental education program at San Juan County Park to take advantage of high visitor use.
- Expand citizen participation in the Parks Department and Land Bank volunteer programs.

Capital Facilities Plan Overview

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) lists all county park, trail, and natural area projects proposed for the next six years. All projects included in the CFP work toward meeting the recommended goals, policies, and actions of this Plan. The CFP is reflective of community feedback, acting on residents' near-term priorities such as land stewardship, water access opportunities, non-motorized transportation facilities and trail development. The CFP also includes a significant land acquisition program, led by the Land Bank, to facilitate the protection and preservation of natural areas, vistas, and other resource lands. The following action areas provide a framework under which specific CFP project can be organized.

- Trail Planning and Development. Projects implement trail priorities including securing easements and/or expanding rights-of-way, improving interdepartmental and interagency

coordination, and/or developing support facilities such as trailheads, restrooms, and signage.

- **Land Protection.** Projects expand public ownership and/or protection of high-priority lands.
- **Water Access.** Projects define, expand, and/or promote public access to the water through acquisition or expansion of public land and the development of marine access facilities.
- **Funding.** Projects support funding renewal efforts (e.g., Conservation REET) and show long-term needs for sustainable funding sources.
- **Stewardship and Maintenance.** Projects meet stewardship and maintenance needs of county facilities including implementing scheduled improvements and upgrades and addressing accessibility (e.g., American Disability Act access), access, and equity deficiencies.
- **Public Information.** Projects improve or expand public information about park, trail, and natural area locations and amenities, along with public water access sites.

Capital Facilities Plan

The CFP presented below proposes nearly \$14 million in capital project for the next six years. More than \$10 million of these project are land acquisition project led by the Land Bank, while the remainder includes development and renovation project, primarily led by San Juan County Parks and Public Works. The CFP is a compilation of (1) new project suggested through public feedback; (2) projects included in previously adopted county plans and capital projects lists; and (3) desired projects that act as important placeholders for yet-to-be-defined projects such as acquisition of a water access site. All of the projects included in the CFP are county-led project and affect county facilities.

The CFP presents an ambitious list of capital projects, averaging nearly \$2 million per year over the course of six years. It is likely that many projects proposed in the CFP will not be completed due to funding limitations and other resource constraints. To help with decision-making moving forward, the planning team developed criteria to assign a priority level (low, medium, or high) to each project proposed in the CFP; the more criteria a project meets, the higher the priority:

- **Public Safety.** The project enhances public safety.
- **Community Need.** The project meets identified community needs.
- **Effective Stewardship.** The project preserves or extends the life of existing facilities and implements existing master or management plans.
- **Cost Efficiency.** The project utilizes and maximizes available resources through leverage, alternative funding, and partnerships.
- **Equity.** The project ensures equitable distribution of facilities and resources on a geographic or per capita basis.

The following CFP (Table 6.1) provides a detailed project list, which includes brief project descriptions, and designation of lead agency, funding options, and priority ranking. The project list will assist staff in the preparation of future capital budget requests.

Table 6.1: San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan 2017-2022 Capital Facilities Plan

Activity Key

A = acquisitions
D = development
R = renovation

Agency Key

CP = County Park
PW = Public Works
LB = Land Bank

Priority Key

H = High Priority
M = Medium
L = Low

Funding Key

R = REET 1 or 2
CR = Conservation REET
CF = Conservation Futures
GF = General Fund
RF = Road Fund
Gr = Grants
P=Private/donations/dedications/partners

Notes

R* denotes REET 1 only

Property Type	Island	Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2030
<i>Regional Park</i>	<i>San Juan</i>	San Juan Park											
		Brann Cabin Preservation	R	CP	M	Gr,Pr,R			25,000				
		Develop Master Plan	R,D	CP	H	Gr/R		50,000					
		Replace Shop Building	R	CP	H	R			40,000	120,000			
		Renovate/replace shelter near upper field	R	CP	M					65,000			
		Acquire adjacent land for park expansion	A	CP	H	R,Gr,Pr							900,000
		Implement Master Plan Improvements	R,D	CP	H	R,Gr,Pr						750,000	
<i>Regional Park</i>	<i>Lopez</i>	Odlin Park											
		Acquire adjacent land to south (~100 acres)- Odlin South	A	CP	H	R,Gr,Pr	100,000						
		Evaluate and Replace Tide Gate	R	CP	M			100,000					
		Install informational & interpretive signage	D	CP	H	R,Gr,Pr		5,000					
		Install cookstove/fireplace in Pavilion	D	CP	M	R,Gr				35,000			
		Improvements to Odlin South	D	CP	M	R,Gr			25,000				
<i>Regional Park</i>	<i>Shaw</i>	Shaw Park											
		Master Plan Renovation	R,D	CP	H	R,Gr			75,000		600,000		
<i>Local Park</i>	<i>Lopez</i>	Agate Beach											
		Develop master plan	R	CP	H	R, Gr, Pr		60,000					
		Implement MP, includes ADA RR, Parking, Beach Access, Picnic Area	R, D	CP	H	R, Gr, Pr			100,000	500,000			

San Juan County PTNA Chapter 6: Implementation: Recommended Actions and Projects

Property Type	Island	Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2030
Local Park	Lopez	Otis-Perkins Park											
Local Park	Orcas	Eastsound Waterfront Park											
		Install interpretive panel/kiosk	D	CP	M	R, Pr				10,000			
Local Park	Lopez	Lopez Village Park											
		Provide ADA access to table and picnic area, include hard surface pathway	D	CP	H	R, Gr		20,000					
		Re-roof Restroom/Shower building	R	CP	M	R, Gr					110,000		
Local Park	San Juan	Reuben Tarte Memorial Park											
		Chipseal lower parking area and turn around	R	CP	H	Funded	5,000						
		Upgrade / pave Ada parking stall and connection					2,500						
		Replace existing porta-potty with ADA-accessible unit											
		Install interpretive signage					2,000						
Local Park	San Juan	Turn Point Day Use Park											
		Renovate and pave parking lot ADA path	R	CP	H	Funded	12,000						
		Install porta-potty with enclosure or concrete					2,000						
		noxious weed removal, plant restoration,					10,000						
		Survey ROW and install signage					3,500						
		Picnic Area and amenities					2,500						
Pocket Park	Lopez	Blackie Brady Park											
		Repair/Replace Stairs at beach transition	R	CP/PW	H	R, Gr		40,000					
Pocket Park	Orcas	Viewpoint Park											
		Replace Interpretive Signs		PW									
Pocket Park	Orcas	East Olga County Park											
		Install entry and wayfinding signage	D	CP	H	Pr	500						
Pocket Park	San Juan	Eagle Cove Shore Access											
		Improve Shore Access, replace fence, weed removal, trail	R	CP	H	Funded	7,000						
		Information/interpretive signage					1,000						
Special Facility	Orcas	Eastsound Village Square											
		Upgrade and mount bike racks	R	CP	M	Pr		1,500					
		Regrade, improve park lawn	R	CP	M	R, Gr			20,000				

San Juan County PTNA Chapter 6: Implementation: Recommended Actions and Projects

Property Type	Island	Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2030
Special Facility	Lopez	Lopez Village Skate Park											
		Fixture replacements	R	CP	M	R,Gr,Pr							150,000
Right of Way		Non-Motorized Safety Improvements	R	PW	H	RF	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Right of Way	Lopez	Lopez Island Trail Expansion											
		TBD											
Right of Way	San Juan	San Juan Island Trail Expansion											
		TBD											
Right of Way Trail	Orcas	Enchanted Forest Trail – North Beach Rd to Lovers Ln	D	PW	M	RF					82,000	100,000	
Right of Way Trail	Orcas	Lovers Land Trail – Main St to Enchanted	D	PW	M	RF							83,000
Bicycle	Orcas	Orcas Road Improvements - Shoulder widening	D	PW	H	RF, Gr	XX						
Bicycle	San Juan	Douglas/Bailer Hill Roads Improvements – Shoulder Widening	D	PW	H	RF, Gr				XX			
Shoreline Access		Shore Access Improvement Program	D	PW	H	RF	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000
Shoreline Access	Orcas	TBD											
		Survey and develop shoreline access road ends											
Shoreline Access	San Juan	TBD											
		Survey and develop shoreline access road ends											
Shoreline Access	Lopez	TBD											
		Survey and develop shoreline access road ends											
Marine Facility	Lopez	Hunter Bay Dock, Float and boat Ramp Replacement	R	PW	M	RF		200,000					

San Juan County PTNA Chapter 6: Implementation: Recommended Actions and Projects

Property Type	Island	Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2030
Marine Facility	Orcas	Orcas Landing Improvements	R, D	PW	M	TBD							
Dock	San Juan	Griffin Bay Marine Access	D	PW	H	RF	10,000		190,000				
Preserve	Lopez	Shark Reef Sanctuary											
		ADA toilet, parking, signs, trail/shoreline restoration	R	CP	H	R,Gr		75,000			200,000		
		Install interpretive signs											
Trail Easement	Lopez	Iceberg Point											
		Acquire formal access and entry		LB	M	CR				25,000			
Preserve	Lopez	Fisherman's Bay: Weeks Wetland											
		Trail enhancement		LB	M	CR							
Preserve	Lopez												
CE	Lopez	Farmland											
		Acquisition		LB	H	CR	150,000	150,000					
Preserve	Lopez	Hummel Lake											
		Trail improvement/		LB	M	CR			15,000				
Preserve	Lopez	Lopez Hill											
		Trail improvements		LB	H	CR	10,000				25,000		
Preserve	Orcas	Turtleback											
		Trail improvements		LB	H	Pr		25,000				25,000	
Preserve	Orcas												
Preserve	San Juan	Farmland											
		Acquisition		LB	H	Gr,Pr,CR	200,000				500,000		
Preserve	San Juan	Frazer Homestead											
		Trail improvements, fencing		LB	M	CR, GR						75,000	

San Juan County PTNA Chapter 6: Implementation: Recommended Actions and Projects

Property Type	Island	Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2030
Trail Easement	San Juan	American Camp Trail/Cattle Point Road											
		Trail improvements, maintenance		LB	M	CR, GR,		35,000		25,000			
Preserve	San Juan	Westside											
		New Trails/improvements		LB	H	CR	75,000			25,000			
Preserve	San Juan	False Bay Creek											
		Trail		LB	M	CR		25,000					
Preserve	San Juan	Zylstra Lake											
		Trails, Parking, Beach		LB	H	CR,PR,GR		100,000	100,000				
Preserve	San Juan	Mount Grant		LB	H	CR,PR,GR							
		Trails, Parking, Restroom						50,000	150,000	50,000			
		Acquisition		LB	H	CR,PR,GR		250,000	250,000				
Preserve	Orcas	Shoreline Access											
		Acquisition		LB	H	Gr, CR, Pr			250,000				
Preserve	Orcas	Crescent Beach, Stonebridge Terrill											
		Trail Improvements		LM	M	CR, GR				50,000		25,000	
Preserve	Orcas	Deer Harbor											
		Trail improvements		LB	M	CR, GR					75,000		
Preserve	San Juan	King Sisters											
		Trail maintenance		LB	M	CR				25,000			
Preserve	Orcas	Coffelt Farm											
		Fence/Trail		LB	H	CR					30,000		
Preserve	Lopez	Fisherman's Bay: Spit											
		Dock replacement		LB	L	GR						300,000	
		Trail improvement, fencing		LB	M	CR				25,000			
Conservation	Orcas	Farmland											
		Acquisition		LB	M	GR, CR						500,000	
Preserve	Lopez	Forestland											
		Acquisition		LB	H	GR, PR,	600,000						

San Juan County PTNA Chapter 6: Implementation: Recommended Actions and Projects

Property Type	Island	Site and Project Description	Activity	Agency	Priority	Funding	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2030
Preserve	Lopez	Shoreline											
		Acquisition		LB	H	CR, GR,	400,000	250,000	250,000	150,000			
Preserve	Lopez	Upright Head											
		Trail improvements, Viewpoint improvements		LB	M	CR, GR					50,000		
Preserve	Orcas	Forestland											
		Acquisition		LB	M	CR, PR					500,000		
Preserve	San Juan	Cady Mountain (and possible expansion)											
		Trail, Parking		LB	M	CR, GR		100,000	50,000				
		Road Maintenance		LB	M		5,000		5,000		5,000		
Preserve	San Juan	Mt. Ben											
		Trailhead/parking/signage		LB	M	CR		25,000					
Preserve	San Juan	Limekiln											
		Trail reroutes/signage		LB	M	CR		10,000			10,000		
Preserve	Shaw	Shoreline		LB	M	CR, PR				250,000			
		Acquisition											
Preserve	San Juan	Shoreline											
		Acquisition											
Preserve	Outer	Forestland											
		Acquisition		LB	L	CR, PR						250,000	
Preserve	San Juan	Forestland/connector		LB	H	CR, GR,		500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
		Acquisition											
Preserve	Outer	Shoreline											
		Acquisition		LB	H	GR, CR				400,000			

Implementation Funding Options

An essential step to realizing the community's vision for the county's parks, trails, and natural areas is identifying and securing funding to implement priority projects and actions. While some funding may already be secured to move specific projects or actions forward, additional resources need to be secured or reallocated to ensure project completion.

Given the county's limited operating and capital budgets, the implementation measures identified below primarily discuss non-general fund options. A more thorough review of potential funding options is included in Appendix C: Conservation Finance Feasibility Study, which describes in detail local financing options and relevant federal and state grant and conservation programs.

Local Funding Opportunities

While a variety of approaches exists to support individual projects or initiatives, the broader assessment of community needs suggests that additional, dedicated funding will be required to finance renovation and growth in the county parks system. Local sources of funding at the city or county level are playing an increasing role in fulfilling park and recreation objectives across the U.S. Such funding sources provide critical leverage to grant money offered through state and federal programs.

In San Juan County, four potential mechanisms—explained in greater detail below—may be used to support park and natural area acquisition and development, trail development, and general park facility upgrades: (1) property tax levy lid lift; (2) general obligation bonds; (3) real estate excise taxes; and (4) the conservation futures lid lift. While these approaches require further review and a detailed assessment of potential revenue, political willingness, and potential voter support, they present realistic local funding opportunities to implement the projects and actions detailed in this Plan.

Property Tax Levy Lid Lift

San Juan County may ask voters to increase the regular county property tax via a levy lid lift, which requires majority approval of voters at a general or special election. For example, a 0.1 percent increase in the property tax levy would generate just under \$800,000 annually at a cost of \$43 per year to the average homeowner in the county.

Although voters approved a lid lift in the fall of 2014, taxing capacity still remains available for an additional lid lift. This will require significant political will and support from voters to succeed. Property tax rates in San Juan County are the lowest in the state, and conversely, average home prices are the highest in the state which results in relatively large tax bills for many homeowners in the county. Also, a significant portion of county land is enrolled in open space programs resulting in some shift of tax burden to other landowners. Arguably, the open space properties provide a public benefit to county residents and usually require fewer public services at taxpayer expense.

General Obligation Bonds

San Juan County could issue general obligation bonds and levy property taxes to pay the debt service on the bonds. For unlimited tax general obligation bonds, 60 percent of the electorate must approve issuance of general obligation bonds, which must be validated by a voter turnout of at least 40 percent of those who voted in the last general election. A \$10 million general

obligation bond, payable over 20 years, would cost the average homeowner approximately \$43 annually. San Juan County historically has carried relatively little debt and currently has no voted general obligation debt outstanding. As such, it has ample capacity under statutory debt limits to issue bonds for parks and open space.

Real Estate Excise Taxes

Counties may impose three types of real estate excise tax (REET) to fund capital projects, conservation areas, and affordable housing. San Juan County currently imposes all three increments of the REET: the first & second 0.25 percent REETs and the third 1.0 percent Conservation Area REET.

The funds generated by the REET may be used only for construction of capital projects as identified in the capital facilities plan element of the comprehensive plan and includes acquisition of parks, recreational facilities, and trails. This increment of REET is paid by the seller.

Funds generated by the third REET increment, the Conservation Area REET, are used exclusively for the acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas and, unlike the first two increments of REET, are paid by the buyer. San Juan County is the only county in Washington that has exercised its authority to levy this conservation area REET. Currently, the county assesses the maximum statutory limit of 1.0 percent authorized by the voters in 1990 and renewed in 1999 and 2011. The Conservation REET assessment supports the operations of the San Juan County Land Bank and is pending renewal again in 2026 by county voters.

Conservation Futures Lid Lift

San Juan County may also request a levy lift for the Conservation Futures Tax to the maximum rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 of assessed value (or \$6.25 per \$100,000 value). The county currently levies this tax at \$0.0331. Revenues generated from the Conservation Futures Tax may be expended for the acquisition of development rights and other real property rights and interests of any open space, farm and agricultural, and timber land and the operation and maintenance of such lands. Implementing this tax at the full \$0.0625 levy (an increase of 0.0295) would generate roughly \$300,000 annually and cost the average homeowner \$15 per year.

Federal and State Opportunities

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including those through the state Recreation and Conservation Office, namely the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and Transportation Enhancement Program. San Juan County has had success securing grants from a number of these sources to fund land acquisition, park development and renovation, and marine access facility development projects.

While these programs and others provide valuable sources of funding for local park and open space projects, they are not a panacea for financing park system needs. All of these grant programs are competitive, non-recurring, and often require a significant percentage (up to 50 percent in some programs) of local match funding. They also require significant staff resources to pursue due to application, monitoring, and reporting requirements. The county should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Volunteer and Community-based Action

The public process for this Plan has demonstrated that many residents want to be involved in improving the county's parks, trails, and natural areas system. To date, the county has been successful in engaging volunteers in a number of activities to enhance stewardship and maintenance capacity. There may be more opportunity to engage residents, local service groups, or other civic or "friends" groups in meeting various volunteer-appropriate stewardship and maintenance needs identified in this Plan.

It is also worth noting the private philanthropic capacity of residents of the San Juan Islands, and the opportunity to direct private philanthropic efforts to benefit local parks, trails, and natural areas priorities. For example, over the last 10 years, the Land Bank has worked successfully with the private non-profit San Juan Preservation Trust to secure more than \$16 million in private funds for a number of projects including Turtleback Mountain, Watmough Bay, President Channel, Mount Grant and Zylstra Lake.

Appendix A. San Juan County Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Plan 2011-2016: Accomplishment Report

An important part of any plan update process is reviewing what was accomplished from the previous plan in order to move forward with our communities' vision and priorities for the future. Accomplishments in this report are organized in 2 broad categories: 1.) Goal Action Items and 2.) Capital Improvements Completed 2011-2016.

Goal Action Items:

Goal 1: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas System.

Provide a quality, diversified parks, trails, and natural areas system that offers a wide range of active and passive recreation experiences and conserves and respects natural resources and island character.

Top-Tier Actions

1. Work with private and public landowners to protect high-priority lands using a variety of tools such as land or development right purchase, exchange, and private donation.

- Across the archipelago: The county played a key role in establishing the San Juan Islands National Monument, permanently protecting approximately 1,000 acres.
- Blakely Island: Accepted a conservation easement donation of a 75-acre tract on Lopez Sound.
- Henry Island: Initiated a project to preserve an 80-acre property with waterfront on both Open Bay and the Haro Strait.
- Orcas Island: Received donation of 12 acres adjacent to LB Diamond Hill Preserve; 50 acres with frontage on President Channel protected, and; project initiated to protect 24 acres spanning the lower reaches of Cascade Creek.
- Lopez Island: Obtained 50-year lease over 100-acre Odlin South; 95-acre conservation easement on the Kjargaard/Bufum property and; project initiated to protect 145-acre RR Bar Ranch.
- San Juan Island: Purchased 141-acre Mount Grant; purchased 313-acre Lestralaur Farm containing Zylstra Lake; received donation of 30-acres adjacent to the LB Westside Preserves, and; initiated a conservation easement on the 147-acre Amaro/Lawson Farm.
- Waldron Island: Initiated a conservation easement on a 34-acre property fronting Boundary Pass.

2. Continue collaboration with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to enhance and expand facilities and partnership opportunities, such as Agate Beach to Iceberg Point and extension of Cattle Point Rustic Trail.

- Led efforts to form and sustain the Terrestrial Manager's Group consisting of the Land Bank, County Parks, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State Parks, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Juan County Conservation District, and several non-profits including the San Juan Preservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy.
- Helped sustain and lead the Stewardship Network of the San Juan Islands consisting of over 40 conservation-oriented organizations.
- Helped initiate Youth Conservation Corps on Lopez, San Juan and Orcas. The YCCs do trail and maintenance work on all public lands throughout the county.
- Helped lead the Cattle Point Road trail project that has continued toward its goal of establishing a trail linking Friday Harbor and the American Camp Unit of the San Juan Island National Park together with the SJI Trails Committee, and the SJI National Historical Park.
- Partnered with BLM and the National Park Service in hosting the annual American Hiking Society trail work weeks and the Student Conservation Association to improve and build trails on federal, state and county lands in the San Juan Islands.

3. Maintain public ownership of DNR trust lands in San Juan County through interagency cooperation and implementation of the 2003 multi-agency transfer package.

- The 103-acre Odlin South property on Lopez was leased to the county for 50 years. It is now managed by County Parks.
- The 30-acre Cormorant Bay property was permanently protected as part of the SJIs National Monument. Only one school Trust Land remains unprotected in the county.

4. Collaborate with other public agencies, such as the Town of Friday Harbor and Port Districts, to leverage existing resources and pursue funding opportunities to attain common goals associated with various parks, trails and natural areas.

- The county secured: The lease at Odlin South (through the state Trust Land Transfer Program) and protection of Cormorant Bay, both DNR School Trust Lands, at no cost (total value roughly \$1,700,000 million); donation from private individuals of 12-acres on Orcas and 30 acres on San Juan (\$1,300,000 million in value); nearly \$1,500,000 in grant funding for 4 projects on Orcas, Lopez and Shaw, and; Commitment of roughly \$3,600,000 from the non-profit San Juan Preservation Trust for 2 projects on San Juan and 1 on Orcas.
- The county is working as the Contracting Agent for the Town of Friday Harbor on the Tucker Street Improvement Project.

5. Identify existing public lands that could provide enhanced public access opportunities, especially public lands with water access.

- 12 of 13 waterfront Land Bank Preserves are open to the public and provide access to the shoreline.
- The Shore Access Program funded in Transportation Improvement Plan through 2021 is facilitating a county wide signage program to identify public access points within the road right-of-way that adjoins the shoreline.

6. Implement existing master plans for Odlin and Shaw County Parks.

- Odlin Park Master Plan improvements were completed in 2013 and included development of a new group camping area, expansion of shoreline day use facilities, development of new campground access road away from the shoreline and restoration of the old shoreline road location. Also included, renovation of shore-side campsites and development of 2 new RV sites, establishment of over 10,000 sq. ft. of wetlands for mitigation; upgrades and expansion of the park water system and renovation of the park office and residence.

7. Continue to invest in new signage and basic infrastructure (parking, bike racks, stairs, and restrooms) as identified in the capital facilities plan and as demonstrated by regular site assessments.

- See the Capital Facilities Plan for specific projects accomplished.

Goal 2: Trail Planning and Development.

Provide a multipurpose system of trails and corridors that meets the recreational and transportation needs of the community and connects parks, natural areas, activity centers, and other areas of interest.

Top-Tier Actions

1. Better define roles of San Juan County Public Works and Land Bank in meeting community trails needs.

- The Land Bank and Public Works have discussed roles in meeting trails needs. The Land Bank and Parks have focused on developing trails on county Preserves and Parks, and rustic trails on private land. Public Works has focused on creating trails in road rights-of-way. Both participated in a joint project along the Stonebridge Terrill Preserve Property next to Mount Baker Road on Orcas resulting in roughly 300 feet of new trail.
- Public Works has partnered with local trail groups to develop and/or upgrade trails identified specifically by the trail groups, i.e. Minnie Mae trail on San Juan and Village Road and Lopez Road Trail on Lopez Island, and Lovers Lane and Enchanted Forest roadside trails in the initial planning stages on Orcas as requested by the community through Open House events.

2. Update the Non-motorized Transportation Plan to reflect trail corridor priorities within road right-of-ways in conjunction with the update of the transportation element of the county comprehensive plan.

- The county updated the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan which included an extensive section on the non-motorized items, namely trails, and referenced the PTNA. With the update of the PTNA, the Non-motorized transportation plan will be developed to be fully represented by the updated PTNA to maintain consistency for presentation of non-motorized facilities within the county.

3. Construct priority trail projects established in San Juan County Land Bank management plans.

- The Land Bank has constructed nearly 5 miles of new trails on 3 Preserves and 1 San Juan Preservation Trust Preserve.

4. Prioritize needed trail-support facilities (e.g., restrooms, parking) in areas of high traffic and use.

- Upgraded parking and signage installed at Westside San Juan Island Preserves.

5. Encourage collaboration among volunteer trail groups to facilitate sharing and leveraging of knowledge and resources.

- Public Works, Parks, and the Lopez Community Trails Network collaborated on the Odlin Park – Ferry Road 1/3 mile multi-use trail. The project is an important link in the Ferry to Village trail plan.
- Parks has facilitated collaboration between visiting youth groups and local trails groups and agency partners in trail development and renovation projects at both Odlin and Shaw County parks.
- Collaborated with BLM and trails groups to design and develop a loop trail at the Reef Net Point area of Shaw County Park.
- Parks, SJ Preservation Trust, and the conservation corps worked together to develop a trail link from Shaw County Park to the Graham Preserve trail.

6. Expand San Juan County Land Bank's role in acquisition and holding of trail easements to facilitate trail development.

- The Land Bank has acquired 7 trail easements and licenses on San Juan and Lopez. It is actively seeking more properties.

Second-Tier Actions

1. Develop and provide countywide trail and public land maps for public distribution.

- An electronic map and website are in progress via the Terrestrial Managers Group.
- Public Works has update the best available shore access information that is published within the PTNA 2016 update.

2. Hire a trails coordinator to explore feasibility of countywide trails plan, which includes definition of recreational bicycle and pedestrian trails, establish coordination system with county departments and other agencies, research grant funding opportunities, and be the overall point of contact for trail inquiries. – Not accomplished

3. Explore opportunity to develop a comprehensive countywide trails plan.

- Develop simple, recognizable "brand" for San Juan County trails to ensure consistency and user-friendliness across facilities.-Not accomplished

4. Convene a meeting between relevant county staff and the Orcas, San Juan and Lopez trails groups, the Town of Friday Harbor, and Port Districts on each island to review highlights of the Plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration.-Not accomplished

5. Encourage and support the provision of publicly accessible recreational trails on private land throughout the county.

- The Land Bank has secured trail easements and licenses on 7 privately-owned properties.

6. Convene a meeting between relevant county staff and the Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez trails groups to review highlights of this Plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration. -Not accomplished.

7. Work with local trails groups to identify priority corridors for trail easements and explore feasibility of developing a “trail easement toolkit” to help landowners make educated decisions about donation of trail easements.

- The Land Bank has worked with trails groups to identify and execute trail easement opportunities.

Goal 3: Land Protection.

Acquire high-priority lands that preserve open spaces, improve access to water, conserve natural resources, maintain island character, and improve and expand recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.

Top-Tier actions

1. Explore park expansion opportunities at San Juan Island County Park and Odlin County Park.

- Secured WA Department of Natural Resources 50 year lease for Odlin South which is adjacent to Odlin Park

2. Purchase DNR-leased lands such as Lopez Hill and Odlin South on Lopez Island.

- The county secured 50-year leases on Lopez Hill and Odlin South. It is currently pursuing acquisition of the remainder interest in these properties.
- Through county action, the 30-acre Cormorant Bay School Trust Land on Orcas became part of the SJIs National Monument.

3. Pursue agricultural land protection opportunities in Crow Valley on Orcas Island, Center Valley on Lopez Island, and San Juan Valley on San Juan Island.

The Land Bank has:

- Secured a 95-acre conservation easement and has initiated another easement on a 145-acre ranch in Center Valley.
- Concluded its purchase of the 180-acre Coffelt Farm in Crow Valley on Orcas. This property, which had a conservation easement, was slated to be divided into 5 parcels and sold as separate estates. The Land Bank, in partnership with the non-

profit Coffelt Farm Stewards, had kept the property intact and functioning as a dynamic farm.

- Closed, in partnership with the San Juan Preservation Trust, on 313-acre Lestaur Farm in San Juan Valley. The vast majority of the property will remain in agricultural production.

4. Expand opportunities for public shoreline access on Orcas Island, specifically along each side of Eastsound and in the North Beach area.

- Public Works has been working to identify and develop public shoreline access on all islands in the county in public right-of-way that abuts the shoreline. PW has developed standard details to facilitate these improvements and has funding allocated in the Transportation Improvement Plan through 2021.

5. Pursue additional land protection opportunities in areas of high habitat value as identified in the Land Bank's 2008-2014 Habitat Conservation Plan.

- Nearly all Land Bank acquisition projects mentioned above were contained in the 2008-2014 Habitat Conservation Plan. In updating the plan moving forward, the other properties acquired will be included in priority areas based on new information.

Second-Tier Actions

1. Convene regular meetings with state and federal agencies and local private organizations with county land protection interests to identify common opportunities.

- The Terrestrial Manager's Group, as listed above, has held bimonthly steering committee meetings and an annual meeting since 2011.
- A subgroup of Terrestrial Managers Group, the LNT Core group, met regularly and secured *Leave No Trace* Traveling Trainers for community workshops, outreach, establishment of the county-wide Voluntary Leave No Trace Area, and development of San Juan Islands specific Leave No Trace Principles.

Goal 4: Stewardship and Maintenance.

Develop and sustain stewardship and maintenance programs that efficiently protect resources, emphasize sustainable methods and design, respond to local needs, and adequately plan for the future.

Top-Tier Actions

1. Implement master plans for Shaw and Odlin County parks.

- Odlin County Park Master Plan was completed improving access for groups, people with disabilities, and creating wildlife habitats and wetlands. Additionally, Public Works replaced the boat access float and gangway with a fully ADA accessible system and old creosote piles and treated wood dock were replaced with 100 percent grating and non-toxic materials.
- The first phase of Shaw Park Master Plan was completed with a new play field, including ball diamond, established by community donation and volunteerism.

Also, Parks constructed a new park office with covered storage and a new approach to the boat ramp.

2. Develop master plans for San Juan County Park, Agate Beach County Park, and other county day parks with identified issues and needs: Not accomplished

3. Develop management plans for Lopez Hill, Cady Mountain, Odlin South, and Mt. Ben.

- The Land Bank has finalized a management plan for Lopez Hill, and additionally for President Channel, Diamond Hill, and False Bay Creek Preserves. Cady Mountain and Mt. Ben plans have been deferred until public access issues can be resolved. The Land Bank also has an interim management plan for Mount Grant Preserve.
- Parks has completed a detailed Ecological Assessment for Odlin South and collected public input on goals and interests for the site development and management plan.

4. Prioritize backlog of maintenance projects and secure funding to implement top-priority projects. These projects are in addition to those listed in the Capital Facilities Plan in Chapter 6.

- San Juan County Parks and Fair completed prioritized project list and the following projects:
 - San Juan Park –improved kayak launch path, installed new kayak racks, constructed new pump house and replaced needed water system equipment. Replaced many park fixtures including day use BBQs, campsite fire rings, and tables. Completed in-depth hazard tree evaluation and treatment, removed noxious weeds and planted native plants.
 - Odlin Park – updated all vault toilets with floors, roofs and fixtures. Installed info kiosks and interpretive information. Completed in-depth hazard tree evaluation and treatment, removed noxious weeds and planted native plants.
 - Shaw Park – Replaced kiosks and updated park information and interpretive signage, repaired park masonry water fountain and shelter cook-stove, and improved park directional signage. Completed in-depth hazard tree evaluation and treatment in the park campground.
 - Eastsound Village Green – Complete refinishing of Stage on the Green, installed 3 panel interpretive sign that includes constructive wetland information, the stage building project story, and general village green information.
 - Day Parks – All day parks have updated identification signs with logos, parks with older vault toilets were updated with new risers, fixtures, paint and clear corrugated roofs. Trail improvements are ongoing.
 - Lopez Village Skate Park – Parks received a substantial donation of new skate park elements, including installation, redoing the entire park. The donation was received from the owner of Richlite, Inc. manufacturers of Skate Light park elements.

5. Continue to invest in the Land Bank's stewardship fund to ensure funding is available for future maintenance and stewardship needs.

- The Land Bank Commission has continued to build the stewardship fund. It currently exceeds \$3,300,000. Additionally, the Land Bank has partnered with the San Juan Preservation Trust to create and maintain over \$2,000,000 in stewardship funds for Turtleback Mountain and Mount Grant Preserves.
6. Identify inter-county departmental resource-sharing opportunities to meet stewardship needs. -Not accomplished.
7. Coordinate with trails groups on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez to maintain and steward existing trails.
- The Land Bank and Parks have worked extensively with the SJI Trails Committee to construct and maintain trails. It has also worked closely with the Lopez Island Trails Network to acquire new trail easements and licenses.
 - Public Works has coordinated with the SJI Trails Committee to maintain and upgrade Minnie Mae trail. Coordination with the Lopez Island Trails Network has resulted in the development of a trail on Village Road and the upgrade of a trail on Lopez Road.
8. Encourage volunteer stewardship and maintenance projects on county lands from a variety of groups such as Lopez Conservation Corps and other service clubs on county lands.
- As mentioned above, the county has worked with all three Youth Conservation Corps as well as with a number of other service clubs to maintain Land Bank preserves, county parks and trails on public and private property.
 - Parks maintains volunteer stewards on both Lopez and San Juan Islands that monitor day park activities, perform light maintenance, and report on park issues.
 - Park Managers keep a running list of potential service projects for Boy Scouts and other visiting youth organizations. Youth and adult volunteers provide a variety of volunteer work from painting and light carpentry to trail maintenance and weed removal.

Second-Tier Actions

1. Emphasize “low-impact development” and sustainable design techniques in the design and construction of future facilities.
- Odlin park renovation included sustainable practices in older building remodels as well as development of new shelters using local materials sustainably harvested
 - Public Works has used pervious concrete in some trails within UGA areas, namely in Lopez Village and Eastsound.
 - Parks & Fair Administration Office new building was designed constructed with energy efficiency and low VOC materials, including modern automatically adjusting LED lighting, heat pump, low VOC paints, and carpet that incorporates basic pad not requiring glue.
 - Plan for meeting disability access standards in the upgrade and future development of facilities.

- All new developments in county parks included accessible facilities, including campsites, parking, travel-ways and restrooms.
- All trails developed within the road ROW by Public Works meet ADA standards when possible.

2. Maintain and periodically update capital facilities plan to reassess priority and cost of planned projects.

- The county annually reviews and updates capital facilities plans to address changes in needs and priorities, as well as, funding opportunities. All projects included in the Capital Facilities Plan and ready to be executed are proposed through the County Council's annual capital evaluation and budgeting process.

Goal 5: Funding.

Identify, secure, and develop appropriate funding sources to build, operate, maintain, and sustain the parks, trails, and natural areas system.

Top-Tier Actions

1. Pursue renewal of the Land Bank levy by 2014 to support Land Bank operations, stewardship, and acquisitions.

- The Land Bank real estate excise tax (REET) was renewed by popular vote in 2011. It now extends to 2026.

2. Pass real estate excise tax funding (REET type 2) to support park capital funding. Accomplished

3. Maintain current levels of county funding for parks, trails, and natural areas programs.

- Additional funding for Parks was established though a voter passed special levy in 2014.
- Funding allocated in the TIP though 2021 for Non-Motorized Safety Improvements. Including but are not limited to safe pedestrian, bike and equestrian access and travel within the Right of Way facilitated by signage, amenities, long term planning, design, installation and construction.

4. Regularly assess existing fee structures to ensure adequate revenue generation.

- The Parks and Recreation Commission and Parks staff evaluate fee structures on an annual basis.

5. Continue to pursue state and federal grants and leverage local funding to support planned park, trail, and natural area projects.

- As mentioned above, the Land Bank has successfully obtained nearly \$1.5 million dollars in state and federal grants from 2011-2015.
- Parks and Public Works obtained over \$400,000 in state grant funding toward Odlin Park facility renovations.

Second-Tier Actions

1. Conduct further research into local funding options to support county parks and trail development efforts.

- Parks has regularly pursued county grant funding sources for project work, including Public Facilities Financing Assistance Program (PFFAP) and Historic Preservation grants

2. Explore opportunities to cultivate local philanthropic support through means such as capital campaigns for special park, trail, and natural area projects.

- The San Juan Preservation Trust, in partnership with the Land Bank has engaged in multiple fund-raising efforts for projects.
- Parks has established policies for donation of funds and fixtures and have received regular donations through a donation box program at Lopez day parks. Parks have received donations of memorial benches where appropriate.

1. Utilize local media and education materials to strategically raise awareness and educate the community about funding issues and opportunities.

- This was done extensively in the effort to renew the Land Bank REET and the Parks Levy. The Preservation Trust has also used local media and education materials for its joint projects with the county.

Goal 6: Partnerships and Collaboration.

Foster partnerships and countywide collaboration among recreation and open space providers to improve the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas and supporting services and recreational programs.

Top-Tier Actions

1. Identify resource-sharing opportunities with other public land-management agencies operating in the county to improve service delivery and make operations more efficient.

- This was one of the key goals in establishing the Terrestrial Managers Group. It is a definite work in progress.
- Parks works in partnership with the USDI Bureau of Land Management at Agate Beach County Park to support visitor use of the park and Iceberg Point in the national monument.

2. Hold regular leadership meetings between San Juan County Parks, Land Bank, and Public Works to coordinate projects and stay updated on issues and opportunities of mutual interest.

- SJC Parks, Land Bank and Public Works staff have met frequently through the period.

3. Establish subcommittee meeting of members of the Park and Recreation Commission and Land Bank Commission. Not Accomplished

4. Coordinate with the Scenic Byway on project implementation opportunities following the completion of the Byway's Corridor Management Plan.

- Public Works, Parks, and Land Bank representatives were active members of the Corridor Management Plan steering committee through the completion and publication of the plan and implementation of the wayside sign grant project.
- The steering committee meetings have decreased in frequency since 2014 with loss of dedicated state scenic byway funding from federal and state sources leading to infrequent county participation.

Second-Tier Actions

1. Hold biennial forum of park and recreation service providers, at a minimum gathering County Parks, Land Bank, park and recreation districts on San Juan and Orcas islands, and relevant state and federal agencies.

- While this has occurred via the Terrestrial Managers Group among federal, state, county and non-profit organizations, Park and Recreations Districts have not been included.

Goal 7: Community Engagement.

Engage San Juan County residents in the planning and stewardship of parks, trails, and natural areas, and provide effective communication to improve awareness and support of county services.

Top-Tier Actions

1. Create a webpage on the county website that provides an overview of this Plan, and includes updates on progress toward goals, strategies, and actions.

- The Plan has been available on the county's website. Updates on progress will be provided on the web as part of the current update process.

2. Provide regular communication and updates through the county website on volunteer opportunities and events.

- County Parks and the Land Bank regularly post material on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities on the county website and the Land Bank's separate website. These are posted as well in local news blogs, updates, and official press websites.

3. Provide regular public meetings and comment opportunities on county plans and activities.

- The Land Bank and Parks and Fair Commissions have regular advertised monthly meetings open to the public as does the County Council. Plans are presented and discussed at these meetings.
- Parks and Public Works hold public meetings or open house events during the design process for substantial projects.

Second-Tier Actions

1. Implement environmental education program at San Juan County Park to take advantage of high visitor use.

- In partnership with The Whale Museum, Parks developed a whale watch and marine education program for all kayakers and boaters using San Juan County Park between May and early September. Additionally, all commercial kayak tour company guides using San Juan Park are trained in whale watch best practices through the Kayaker Education and Leadership Project (KELP) by The Whale Museum.
- Parks has established Leave No Trace information in the park and has scheduled showings of the Minimal Impact movie in the visitor area during the summer.

2. Expand citizen participation in the Parks Department and Land Bank volunteer programs.

- The Land Bank created a .8 FTE Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator position in 2013. In 2015 alone, the Land Bank has held nearly 60 public events involving a total of well over 1,000 people.
- Parks developed a park steward program for county day parks. Lead stewards help coordinate monitoring and light maintenance at the parks. Additionally, over 100 citizens participated in wetland planting and trail project at Odlin Park in 2013.
- During 2015 Parks received over 1280 volunteer hours.

Capital Improvements Completed 2011-2016

Property Type	Island	Name	Project
Regional Park	San Juan	San Juan Park	Brann Cabin Preservation/Stabilization: Complete
			New Park Truck from ER&R: Acquired
			Office/Residence: Renovated
	Lopez	Odlin Park	Major Renovation: Complete: New 50 person group camp with shelter, masonry fire ring, restrooms, water, trails, new paved main campground entrance road, RV andn ADA campsites, shoreline restoration, expanded day use, upgraded water system, new dock float and gangway, renovated office and residence.
	Shaw	Shaw Park	Phase I Master Plan: Complete: Community play field constructed, new office and covered equipment storage, boat ramp approach replaced.
			New Park Truck from ER&R: Acquired
Local Park	Lopez	Otis Perkins	Update Park Sign: Complete: installed memorial bench, parking area chipsealed, boundary sign, seasonal portable restroom area.
			Restroom Building Renovation: Complete: plus addition of second shower, ADA access path.
	San Juan	Turn Point	Renovations: funded for 2016-2017
		Reuben Tarte	Renovations: funded for 2016-2017

Property Type	Island	Name	Project
	Lopez	Shark Reef Park	Renovate/Upgrade: Toilets renovated, trail to shore improved, boardwalk planned for 2016-2017.
Pocket Park	Lopez	Blackie Brady	New Stairs: Replaced except for shore transition, planned for 2018.
	San Juan	Eagle Cove	Renovations: Trail restored/improved, noxious weed removal and native plant restoration, new sign and information kiosk, new parking area fence, new shore access.
Special Facility	Orcas	Eastsound Village Green	Renovations: Paint and repair restroom, new heaters and door locks. To be completed 2016-2017.
			New Park Entry Sign: Complete
			New Park Vehicle Entrance, ADA Parking and Access: Complete
			Refinishing of Award Winning Stage on the Green: Complete
			Additional Electrical Service Installed Near Park Sign For Event use: Complete
	Lopez	Lopez Village Skate Park	Complete Fixture Replacement and Expansion: Complete
Right-of-Way Trail	Orcas	Mt. Baker Road Trail	North Beach Road to Terrill Beach Road: Complete
	Lopez	Lopez Island Trail Expansion	Lopez Road, Weeks Road: Complete

Property Type	Island	Name	Project
		<i>San Juan Island Trail Expansion</i>	Work in Progress: <i>Minnie Mae Trail</i>
Dock	<i>San Juan</i>	<i>North Islands Dock</i>	North Islands Dock, Float and Gangway
			Construct marine facilities for public access: <i>Complete (Roche Harbor)</i>
	<i>San Juan</i>	<i>Griffin Bay Marine Access</i>	Boat Ramp and Dock: <i>Funded in current TIP, in progress.</i>
	<i>Orcas</i>	<i>Obstruction Pass</i>	Float and Pile Replacement
			Upgrade dock facilities and add shoreline amenities: <i>Complete (dock facilities)</i>
	<i>Orcas</i>	<i>Orcas Village Marine Access and Visitor Area</i>	Upgrade dock facilities per structural report: <i>Removed unused creosote pilings.</i>
			Develop amenities as described in the Master Plan: <i>Constructed sign kiosk, developed meeting room for public meetings, spruced up dock shack, added life jackets and safety information at dock shack. Park-n-Ride under construction 2016-2017.</i>
	<i>Lopez</i>	<i>Odlin Float and Pile Replacement</i>	Upgrade dock facilities: <i>Complete</i>

Property Type	Island	Name	Project
Shoreline Access	<i>Orcas</i>	<i>TBD</i>	County Wide Shore Access Program funded in TIP to achieve goal
			North Beach Road: <i>Complete</i>
			Madrona Point: <i>Complete</i>
	<i>San Juan</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Survey and Develop Shoreline Access Road Ends
			Griffin Bay: <i>In Progress</i>
Preserve	<i>Lopez</i>	<i>Fisherman's Bay: Week's Point</i>	Trail Enhancement/Boardwalk: <i>Complete</i>
		<i>Fisherman's Bay: Tombolo</i>	Parking: <i>Complete</i>
		<i>Farmland</i>	Acquisition: <i>Complete</i>
		<i>Hummel Lake</i>	New Trails/Signage: <i>Complete</i>
		<i>Lopez Hill</i>	Signage: <i>Complete</i>
	<i>Orcas</i>	<i>Turtleback</i>	New South Loop Trail: <i>Complete</i>
	<i>San Juan</i>	<i>Farmland</i>	<i>Complete</i>

Property Type	Island	Name	Project
		<i>Westside</i>	Parking Pullouts: <i>Complete</i>
		<i>False Bay Creek</i>	Pond Construction: <i>Complete</i>

Appendix B. San Juan County Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Needs Assessment 2016

(Originals of this report available through San Juan County Parks & Fair Department)

Community Needs Assessment for the **San Juan County** Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan Update 2017-2022



Prepared by Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From January to April 2016, the San Juan County Parks and Fair Department, Public Works Department, and Land Bank worked with a team from Cascadia Consulting Group to carry out a dynamic public engagement process to inform the update of the Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan. The process included conducting a statistically significant survey and interacting directly with residents at four open houses, one on each of the ferry-served islands (San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw).

This report details the key trends and specific findings related to residents' stated needs, and is intended to be used to ensure that investments and actions outlined in the 2016-2022 Plan reflect community priorities.

Key findings include:

- ✓ **The majority of residents (84%) said that parks, trails, and natural areas are very important** to their quality of life. Nearly as many use County-owned parks, trails, and natural areas very frequently or somewhat frequently. Walking and hiking are the most common activities.
- ✓ **Most respondents (88%) said that there are definitely or maybe enough parks or natural areas** located in places that are convenient for them to use, and most (77%) also said that these parks and natural areas are not at all or only slightly crowded.
- ✓ **Very few respondents felt that too much land is being conserved;** 63% said it is not enough. Survey respondents felt that protecting wildlife and native plant habitats is the most important purpose for conserved land, and open house attendees expressed particular interest in land conservation to provide more hiking and biking trails.
- ✓ Residents on all islands indicated a significant need for **more cross-island trails and hiking trails.**
- ✓ **Most respondents thought there might be enough marine or water access, or weren't sure; this was particularly the case with regard to boat access.** A small percentage said there is enough, and a small percentage said there is not enough. Orcas Islanders were least satisfied with the current availability of marine and water access facilities.
- ✓ Many respondents indicated a need for **more beach and tideland access.**
- ✓ **Residents would like to see improvements in road-end shoreline access areas,** rating those as needing more maintenance and upkeep than other parks and natural areas.
- ✓ **Only 16% of residents felt that it is easy to bicycle in the County;** it is perceived to be somewhat easier on Lopez than on the other islands. Many people shared a fear of biking on the islands due to speeding cars and a lack of shoulders or bike lanes.
- ✓ Given limited funding, **most respondents would prioritize purchasing land for parks, trails, and natural areas; developing separated trails for walking and biking; and developing on-street bicycle lanes.**
- ✓ If it becomes necessary to raise additional funds to deal with funding shortfalls, **residents would prefer to have the County ask voters to approve additional funding rather than charging parking/user fees or reducing hours and services.**
- ✓ **Most people prefer to get information about County parks, trails, and natural areas through County websites** rather than other channels like social media.

1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan (PTNA) provides a long-term vision and six-year plan to guide action and investment in a variety of outdoor spaces and facilities. A County-approved six-year parks plan makes the County eligible for state-based park and recreation grant funding administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. State grants fund many of the proposed parks, trails, and natural areas projects in the County.

In 2016, San Juan County is undertaking an update to its PTNA to ensure that it responds to community needs and priorities and provides clear direction for the identification, development, and management of parks, trails, and natural areas going forward. The PTNA represents a collaborative effort between San Juan County Parks, the Land Bank, and Public Works. After going through a formal adoption process, the new PTNA will be in effect from 2016 to 2022.

This year, San Juan County adjusted the plan update process so that it will also fulfill the Growth Management Act (GMA) requirement for a non-motorized transportation plan. A non-motorized plan is a pedestrian and bicycle trail and corridor plan required under the GMA. San Juan County also includes human-powered water craft trails and corridors in this plan. Moving the goals and policies from the transportation element to the PTNA will help to reduce duplication between plans, ensure consistency across planning documents, and allow for more frequent updating and targeted public outreach.

A review of the last plan update

During the last update, the County undertook a planning process from 2009 to 2010 that also included significant public involvement. Some of the key messages from residents at that time included:

- Trails were ranked as a high priority by over 90% of residents.
- Not enough land was managed for conservation and public use.
- Residents wanted more access to water and marine opportunities.
- The most preferred way to address financial constraints was to use more volunteers for maintenance activities.

San Juan County considered these priorities—along with many others—in updating the PTNA for 2011-2016. Some of the specific actions undertaken during that period related to trails, land conservation, public access, and volunteer engagement included:

- Acquiring three farmland and natural area conservation easements totaling over 215 acres.
- Acquiring (or now under contract to purchase) six natural area properties totaling over 475 acres.
- Securing a 50-year lease on the Odlin South property on Lopez Island.
- Opening two Land Bank preserves to the public.
- Completing 10 projects on Land Bank preserves to enhance public access.
- Making trail and right-of-way additions and improvements in many places on all four ferry-served islands.
- Engaging hundreds of volunteers on park and preserve improvement projects.
- Completing park improvements on all four islands, including renovating the San Juan Park Office and visitor area, renovating the Lopez Village Park restrooms and showers and enhancing ADA access, undertaking renovations contemplated in the Odlin Park Master Plan, improving a play field at Shaw Park, and improving signage at day parks.

Public involvement for 2016 plan update

Public involvement methods were designed to gather representative input from a wide range of County residents, to help ensure that the updated PTNA accurately reflects community needs. The primary methods for public engagement included a community survey and a series of open houses.

Community Survey. In early March 2016, a link to an online community survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected households on the four ferry-served islands, and 360 responded. The survey had 27 questions around County facilities and services, usage, land conservation, trails, water access and boating, information sources, and priorities for the future, as well as 9 demographic or introductory questions. Households were selected randomly in order to ensure robust, statistically significant findings. Survey results are summarized in section 3; see Appendix A for survey questions and Appendix B for detailed results.

A separate survey link was made available to residents who were interested in providing input but were not selected randomly. We received 87 responses. The results of this survey component were analyzed separately to maintain the statistical rigor of the random sample (see Appendix D for detailed results of this survey).

Open Houses. In March 2016, the project team held open houses on all four ferry-served islands to gather additional public input. A total of 83 County residents attended the events. A description of the open house methodology can be found in section 2, and the detailed inputs from each island can be found in Appendix D.



Figure 1. Lopez Island open house

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT METHODOLOGY

Survey methodology

The survey was mailed to 3,000 people. We received 360 responses (of which 326 respondents answered all questions) for an overall response rate of 12 percent. As shown in Table 1, the response rate was higher on Shaw and Lopez, and slightly lower on San Juan.

Table 1. Survey responses by island

Island of residence	Surveys distributed (#)	Responses received (#)	Response rate
San Juan	1,433	142	10%
Shaw & outer islands*	119	24	20%
Lopez	455	64	14%
Orcas	993	118	12%

* The outer islands included Crane, Yellow, Blakely, Stuart, and Waldron; there were 9 responses from these islands.

We retained a few questions from the previous needs assessment survey, conducted in 2009, in order to look for changes in trends and public perception between 2009 and 2016.

Open houses

The team held open houses on each of the four ferry-served islands to capture additional ideas and priorities for parks, trails, and natural areas. Each open house lasted for two hours and began with a short presentation to introduce the purpose of the plan, how public input was used for the previous update, and how public input is being collected for this update. For the remainder of the time, attendees were encouraged to visit six stations to talk with County staff and provide feedback to inform the PTNA update. The stations looked at activities and usage patterns; general satisfaction with County-owned parks and trails; non-motorized transportation needs; priorities for water access and marine facilities; land conservation; and funding (see below for additional detail).

Each open house was facilitated by one or two staff from the consulting team, as well as an island resident who was brought onto the team to serve as a community liaison. Approximately six County staff attended each event, representing the Parks and Fair Department, Public Works, the Land Bank, and the Department of Community Development. Table 2 lists the dates and number of participating residents at each of the four open houses.

Table 2. Open house dates and participation rates

Island	Open house date	Attendance
San Juan	March 15, 2016	26
Shaw	March 16, 2016	14
Lopez	March 29, 2016	28
Orcas	March 30, 2016	15

At each open house, the six stations were organized as follows; the questions asked on poster boards reflected some of the key questions from the survey.

Station 1: Activities



Figure 2. Station 1 map and input poster

At the first station, residents were asked how they use County parks, trails, and natural areas, including engagement in specific activities, and with what frequency. There was also a map to orient people to the relevant County-owned places on each island and to gather thoughts on sticky notes.

Question: In a year, how frequently do you do the following activities in San Juan County?

- Hike or walk
- Ride a bicycle
- Walk a dog
- Play or watch a game on a County playfield
- Ride horses
- Go camping
- Go fishing
- Dive (scuba or snorkel)
- Observe wildlife or relax in nature
- Use a sail boat, power boat, or other trailered boat
- Use a kayak, canoe, dinghy, or other hand-carried boat

Station 2: County-owned Parks and Trails on Each Island



Figure 3. Poster to collect feedback at Station 2 on Orcas Island

At the second station, residents had an opportunity to learn more about the services and facilities of County parks and trails, and provide feedback on their general satisfaction with the maintenance and upkeep of County-owned parks and natural areas (by island).

This included giving a letter grade to each of the parks and natural areas on each island (see Figure 3).

Station 3: Non-motorized Transportation



Figure 4. Mapping non-motorized transportation needs at the San Juan Island open house

The third station provided information about the mandatory requirements of a non-motorized plan, and the rationale behind the County's decision to move non-motorized goals and policies from the transportation element to the PTNA.

Residents were encouraged to draw on a map to highlight places where they would prioritize paths for non-motorized transportation alternatives like biking and walking.

Station 4: Marine Facilities and Water Access



Figure 5. Assessing marine facilities and water access at the Shaw Island open house.

Maps at the fourth station highlighted current marine facilities and shore access points. Residents were asked to provide feedback on priorities for marine facilities and water access, and to identify any specific sites where they would like to have new marine facilities or water access.

Question: What does your island need to improve water access and boating? Using a scale of 1 (no need for more) to 5 (great need for more), please rate the need for more of each type of boat access.

Station 5: Land Conservation and Acquisition

This station provided maps of existing conservation areas on each island and across the county. Residents were asked to provide feedback on priorities for uses of conserved land, and preferred mechanisms for land acquisition for the purpose of conservation.

Question: San Juan County conserves land for many different purposes. Please select up to four purposes that you feel are most important:

- Provide more public access and recreational use.
- Protect wildlife and plant habitats.
- Provide more hiking and biking trails.
- Provide more water access.
- Protect views and vistas.
- Provide more spaces for solitude and enjoyment of nature.
- Preserve farmland.
- Other

Station 6: Funding Priorities

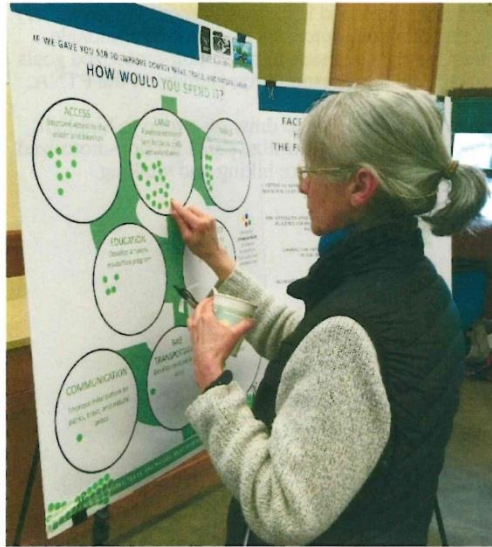


Figure 6. Considering funding priorities at the Shaw Island open house

At the last station, residents were asked to prioritize funding for specific programs and services in County parks, trails, and natural areas, and to think about preferred ways to address budget shortfalls. Originally part of Station 1, the team decided to create a new station focused on this topic after the first workshop.

Question: How would you like the County to prioritize funding for programs in parks, trails, and natural areas?

Question: If it came to a choice due to limited budgets, how would you prioritize the following measures to address funding shortfalls from highest priority (1) to lowest priority (5)?

Non-random survey

A survey link was also distributed to a non-random sample of residents, through the open houses and some community list serves, for those who were interested in providing additional input. The questions asked in this survey were identical to the ones asked in the randomized survey. However, these results are less statistically robust, due to selection bias, and are therefore grouped together with the open house input for purposes of the community needs assessment. Some individuals may also have provided input through the survey as well as at the open houses. Table 3 lists the number of people who filled out the survey outside of the randomized process. Lopez residents distributed the link more widely through email list serves, and thus we received more responses from that island.

Table 3. Responses to non-randomized survey, by island

Island of residence	Responses received (#)
San Juan	9
Shaw & outer islands	4
Lopez	69
Orcas	5

3. RESULTS

This section summarizes key findings. The charts in this section represent only the results from the randomized survey, to maintain statistical rigor. Most of the charts in this section also portray overall trends across all four islands. Additional detail, including island-specific feedback, is provided in Appendix B.

Inputs from the non-randomized survey are summarized in the narrative, along with inputs from the open houses (where some but not all of the survey questions were asked). Full inputs from the open houses and the non-randomized survey are provided in Appendix C and Appendix D, respectively.

Demographics

Table 4 records the demographic characteristics of survey respondents.

Table 4. Demographic distribution of survey respondents

Demographic group		Survey (n = 360)
Gender	Female	57%
	Male	38%
	Prefer not to answer	6%
Age	18 to 24	0%
	25 to 34	4%
	35 to 44	8%
	45 to 54	13%
	55 to 64	31%
	65 and older	39%
	Prefer not to answer	4%
Household information	With children under age 18	14%
	Without children under age 18	78%
	Prefer not to answer	8%
Residency type	Own	90%
	Rent	10%
Full-time resident of San Juan County	Yes	98%
	No	2%

Where responses were notably different between male and female respondents or between age groups, those differences are highlighted. However, differences in age groups may not be as robust given the small number of people in the 18- to 34-year-old age bracket who responded to the survey.

Respondents to the non-random survey had a similar demographic distribution across most of these key variables; one exception was that they included a lower proportion of full-time County residents (79% compared to 98%). As mentioned earlier, most of the responses to the non-random survey were from Lopez (79%).

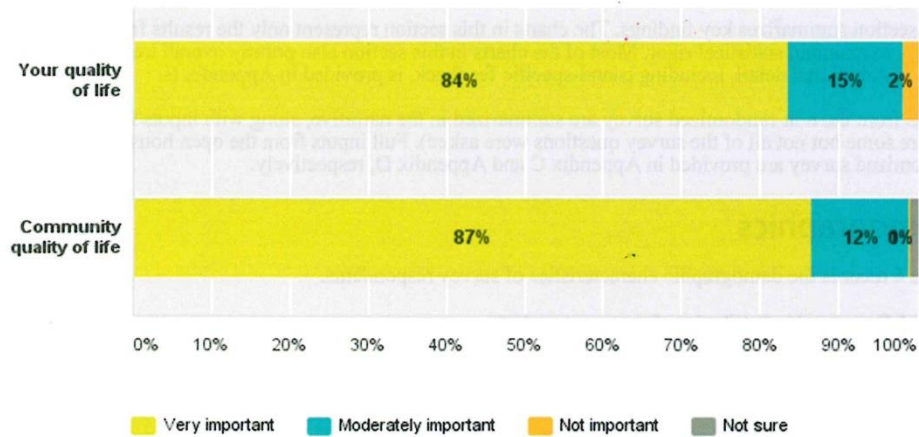
Usage rates and activities

Importance of parks, trails, and natural areas

The majority of residents (84%) said that parks, trails, and natural areas are very important to their quality of life; even more (87%) said that those places are very important to the community's quality of life. The figures were very similar across all of the islands and age groups. Women were slightly more likely than men to say that parks, trails, and natural areas are very important (88% compared to 74%).

How important are parks, trails, and natural areas in your community to...?

Answered: 309 Skipped: 51



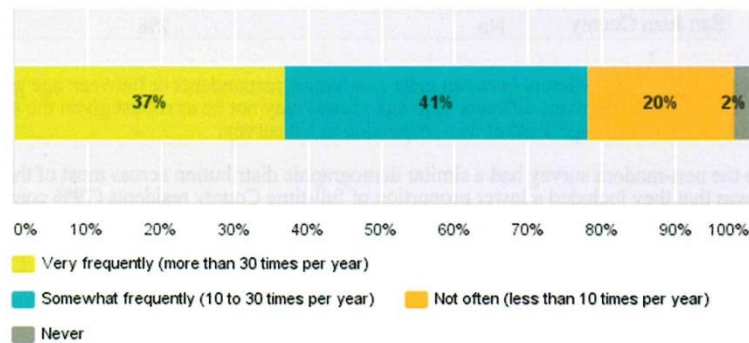
The rates were even higher on the non-random survey, with 90% of respondents saying that parks, trails, and natural areas are very important to their quality of life, and 92% saying that those places are very important to the community's quality of life.

Frequency of visits

Most residents (78%) use County-owned parks, trails, or natural areas very frequently or somewhat frequently. This pattern was seen across all four islands.

In a year, how frequently do you visit a County-owned park, trail or natural area?

Answered: 348 Skipped: 12



Respondents to the non-random survey reported similar usage rates, with 85% saying that they use County-owned parks, trails, or natural areas very frequently or somewhat frequently.

Activities

Well over half (67%) of respondents from all islands reported going for recreational walks or hikes very frequently (more than 30 times per year). Other activities that County residents undertake frequently include bird-watching or whale-watching (56% do these very frequently) and relaxing or seeking solace in natural areas (55%). Women reported doing these activities slightly more often than men did.

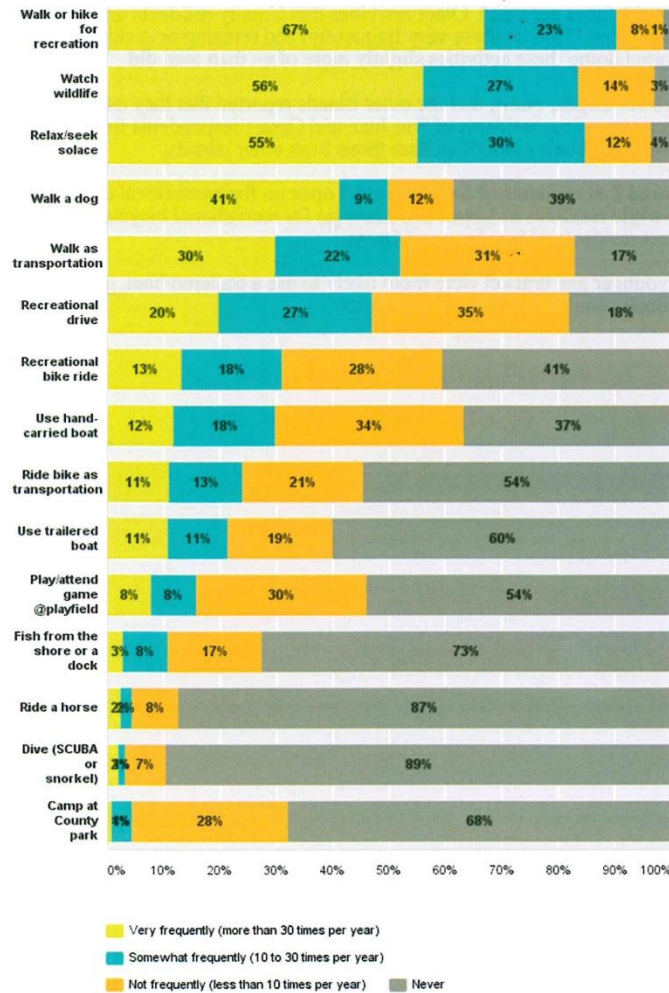
Survey respondents from Lopez, Shaw, and the outer islands reported that they use hand-carried boats with somewhat greater frequency than residents of San Juan and Orcas; respondents from Shaw and the outer islands also reported using trailered boats more often than those from other islands.

The survey also showed that residents of San Juan and Lopez go for recreational drives more often than residents of the other islands, while residents of Lopez and Shaw go for recreational bicycle rides on County roads with greater frequency than residents of San Juan and Orcas.

Respondents in the younger age bracket were more likely to use a trailered boat, go for a bike ride, or go fishing from the shore or a dock compared to older respondents.

In a year, how frequently do you do the following activities in San Juan County?

Answered: 344 Skipped: 16



Open house attendees reflected many of the same top activities: hiking/walking, observing wildlife, and relaxing in nature, as well as dog walking.

Respondents to the non-random survey listed the same four activities as those they undertake most often; the proportion saying that they undertake each activity very frequently was 64% for hiking/walking, 60% for relaxing in nature, 57% for observing wildlife, and 31% for dog walking.

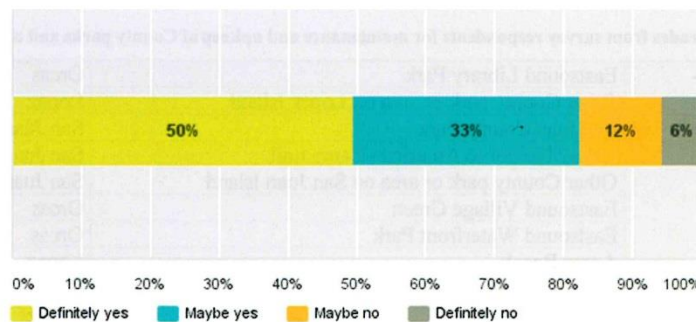
When this question was asked in the 2009 survey, respondents also listed hiking/walking, watching wildlife, and relaxing in nature as activities that they frequently engaged in.

Park access and convenience

Approximately 88% of survey respondents felt that there are definitely or maybe enough parks or natural areas conveniently located nearby. The feedback was similar across all of the islands.

Are there enough parks or natural areas near you to be convenient to use?

Answered: 341 Skipped: 19



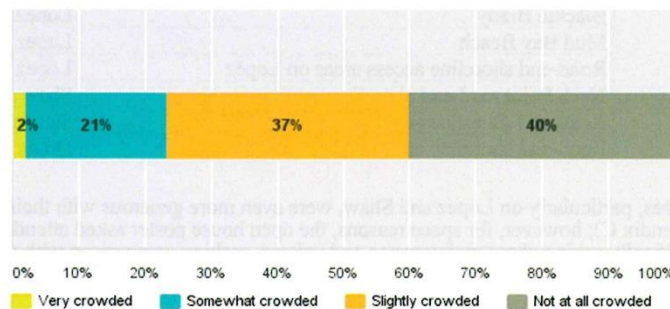
On the non-random survey, 80% of respondents felt that there are definitely or maybe enough parks or natural areas in convenient locations.

Crowding

The survey also asked whether residents felt that County-owned parks, trails, and natural areas are crowded. Most respondents (77%) said that they are not at all or only slightly crowded. Responses were similar across all of the islands, with indication of slightly greater concern about crowding from residents on Lopez and Shaw.

In general, would you say that County-owned parks, trails, and natural areas are...?

Answered: 341 Skipped: 19



The non-random survey yielded similar findings; 74% of respondents said that County-owned parks, trails, and natural areas are not at all or only slightly crowded.

Facilities and services

Overall satisfaction

Respondents to the randomized survey gave nearly all parks and natural areas on all four islands a grade of B or better for maintenance and upkeep (see Table 5). They pointed to road-end shoreline access areas as the places needing most improvement.

Table 5. Average grades from survey respondents for maintenance and upkeep of County parks and natural areas

A-	Eastsound Library Park	Orcas
	Other County park or area on Lopez Island	Lopez
B+	San Juan County Park	San Juan
	Friday Harbor to American Camp trail	San Juan
	Other County park or area on San Juan Island	San Juan
	Eastsound Village Green	Orcas
	Eastsound Waterfront Park	Orcas
	Agate Beach	Lopez
	Shark Reef Sanctuary	Lopez
	Odlin County Park	Lopez
	MacKaye Harbor Dock	Lopez
	Otis Perkins Park	Lopez
	Hunter Bay Dock	Lopez
	Shaw County Park	Shaw
	Other County park or area on Shaw Island	Shaw
B	Reuben Tarte Park	San Juan
	Eagle Cove Beach	San Juan
	Turn Point	San Juan
	North Beach Road End	Orcas
	Obstruction Pass Dock	Orcas
	Madrona Point Public Dock	Orcas
	Westsound Dock	Orcas
	Other County park or area on Orcas Island	Orcas
	Blackie Brady	Lopez
	Mud Bay Beach	Lopez
	Road-end shoreline access areas on Lopez	Lopez
	Neck Point road-end shoreline access area	Shaw
B-	Road-end shoreline access areas on San Juan	San Juan
	Road-end shoreline access areas on Orcas	Orcas

Open house attendees, particularly on Lopez and Shaw, were even more generous with their grading, giving many As (see Appendix C); however, for space reasons, the open house poster asked attendees to grade each place without specifically asking about maintenance and upkeep, making comparison with survey results difficult.

The majority of respondents to the non-random survey were from Lopez, and therefore many of the parks on other islands were not consistently graded but rather tagged with “have not visited.” Consistent with the randomized survey, most of the Lopez parks were given grades in the B+ range, with slightly higher ratings for Shark Reef Sanctuary and slightly lower ratings for Blackie Brady and Mud Bay Beach.

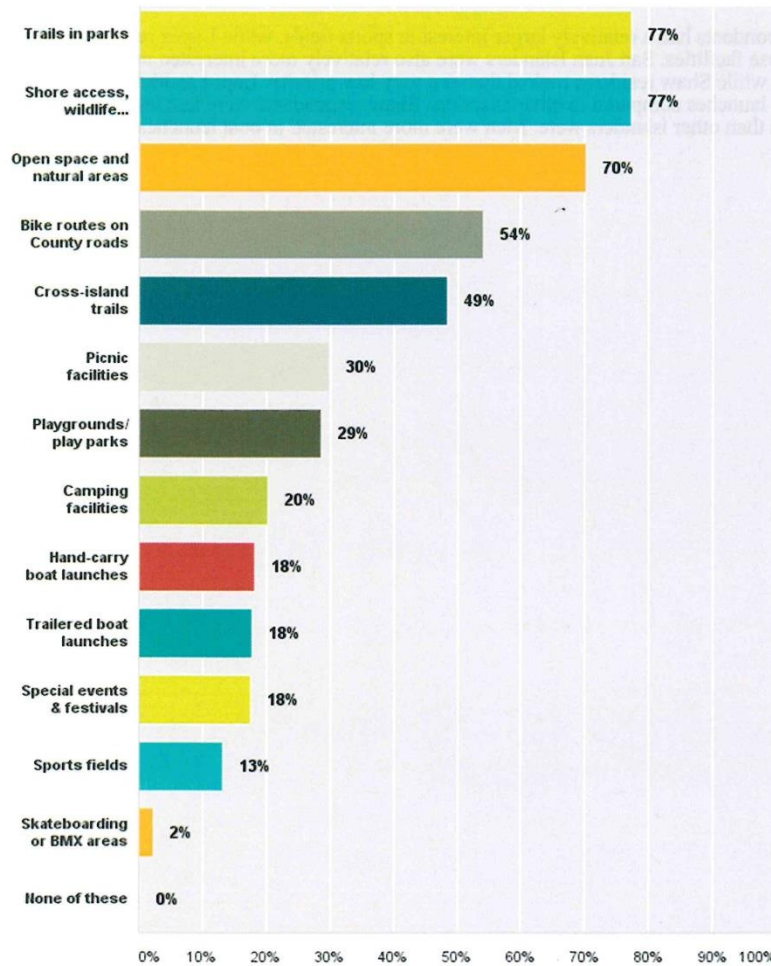
Programs and services

The survey also asked about priority programs and services. Overall, respondents ranked trails, shoreline access and wildlife viewing, and open space and natural areas as particularly important, and community special events and festivals, sports fields, and skateboarding or BMX riding areas as least important.

San Juan respondents had a relatively larger interest in sports fields, while Lopez respondents expressed the least interest in those facilities. San Juan Islanders were also relatively more interested in community special events and festivals, while Shaw residents ranked that as a very low priority. Lopez residents were more interested in trailered boat launches compared to other islanders. Shaw respondents were less interested in bicycle routes along County roads than other islanders were. Men were more interested in boat launches and sports fields than women were.

San Juan County is reviewing some of its services and programs because funding is limited and San Juan County will have to prioritize services and programs. Please select up to five programs or services that you feel are most important.

Answered: 342 Skipped: 18



On the non-random survey, respondents also ranked trails, shoreline access and wildlife viewing, and open space and natural areas as the most important programs or services, and community special events and festivals, sports fields, and skateboarding or BMX riding areas as least important.

The same three programs rated most highly in the 2009 survey as well, indicating no significant change over the last several years.

Land conservation

Amount of conserved land

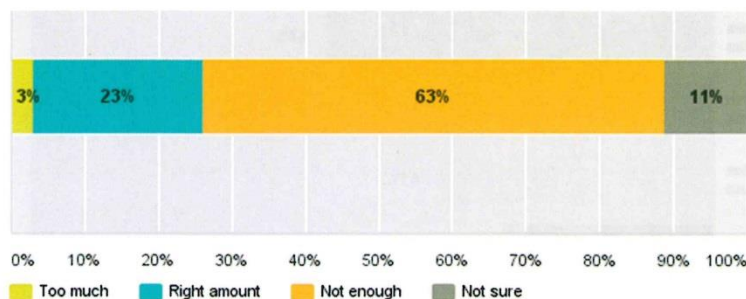
Residents were asked about the amount of public land that San Juan County manages for conservation and public use. There is a clear appetite on all of the islands for additional land conservation efforts. Survey respondents were informed that approximately 15% of San Juan County's land area is currently publicly owned and managed for conservation and public use, and that a number of counties in Western Washington have 50% or more in public ownership. Very few respondents felt that too much land is being conserved; 23% said that it seems like the right amount, and 63% said it is not enough. Shaw and Lopez had the highest percentages of respondents indicating an interest in more conserved land, though the numbers were fairly similar across all of the islands.

These were nearly identical to the responses received during the last needs assessment, six years prior, where again 63% said that not enough land was managed for public use, and Lopez Islanders leaned particularly strongly in this direction.

Younger respondents were more likely to say that San Juan County does not have enough conserved land—79% of 18- to 34-year-olds compared to 59% of those age 55 and older.

Does San Juan County have too much, the right amount, or not enough public land managed for conservation and public use?

Answered: 338 Skipped: 22



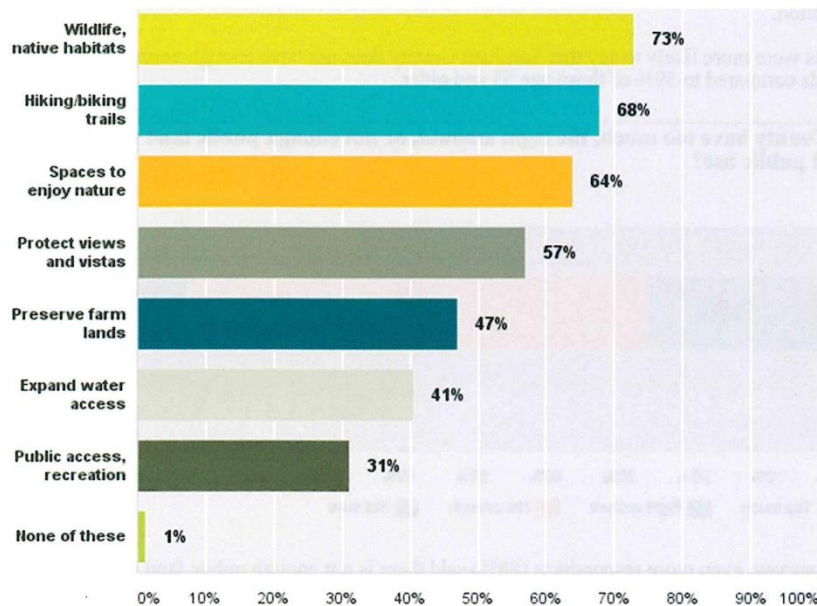
On the non-random survey, even more respondents (88%) said there is not enough public land managed for conservation and public use.

Purpose of conserved land

Survey respondents and open house attendees were asked to reflect on the purposes of land conservation, and rank their relative importance. Survey respondents from all four islands marked “protect wildlife and native plant habitats” as particularly important. Respondents from San Juan and Orcas were also very interested in hiking and biking trails, while Lopez and Shaw residents expressed relatively more interest in providing spaces for solitude and enjoyment of nature. Orcas and Lopez residents were more interested than San Juan and Shaw residents in land conservation for the purpose of expanding water access. Men indicated greater interest than women in land conservation to expand public access / recreational use and water access, and women expressed relatively more interest in protecting wildlife and native plant habitats.

San Juan County conserves land for many different purposes. Please select up to four purposes that you feel are most important.

Answered: 340 Skipped: 20



The relative ranking was very similar to the results of the last survey six years ago. The only discernable difference is a slight uptick in the importance placed on land conservation for the purpose of providing hiking and biking trails.

At the open houses, attendees from all four islands expressed particular interest in land conservation to provide more hiking and biking trails (see Table 6). Participants at the San Juan, Shaw, and Lopez open houses were also very interested in protecting wildlife and plant habitats and preserving farmland. Orcas attendees prioritized water access and public access/recreational use of conserved land.

Table 6. Open house input on land conservation purposes, with top three priorities highlighted.

Which 4 purposes for conserving land are most important to you?	Shaw	SJI	Lopez	Orcas
Provide more public access and recreational use	1	5	6	6
Provide more water access	2	9	11	9
Protect wildlife and plant habitats	12	14	17	4
Protect views and vistas	7	9	9	2

Preserve farmland	9	17	15	1
Provide more hiking and biking trails	11	15	20	8
Provide more spaces for solitude and enjoyment of nature	6	7	12	3
Other (Lopez): Dog park, education programming about wildlife/plants/history related to land				

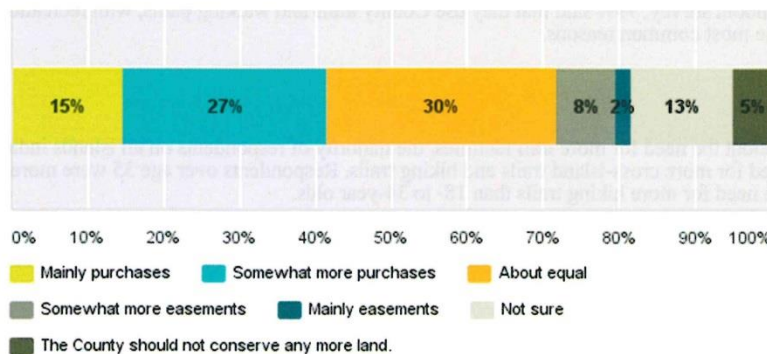
These results are consistent with what was heard from those who chose to answer the non-randomized survey, where protecting wildlife and native plant habitats was ranked first (78%), followed by hiking and biking trails (70%), and spaces for solitude and enjoyment of nature (68%).

Mechanisms for land conservation

Land can be conserved through different mechanisms, such as conservation easements and outright land purchases. Residents were asked to indicate which mechanisms they most supported. Respondents seemed fairly comfortable with both conservation easements and outright land purchases, with a slight preference for purchases. Overall, 42% thought that the County should use mostly or somewhat more purchases, 10% thought that the County should use mostly or somewhat more easements, and 30% thought that they should use about the same amount of each. Only 5% of respondents discouraged the County from trying to conserve any more land. These figures were relatively consistent across all four islands, and across men and women.

What mix of outright purchases and conservation easements should the County use when conserving land?

Answered: 337 Skipped: 23



Responses were very similar on the non-random survey, with 54% saying that the County should use mostly or somewhat more purchases, 9% indicating that the County should use mostly or somewhat more easements, and 26% saying that they should use about the same amount of each.

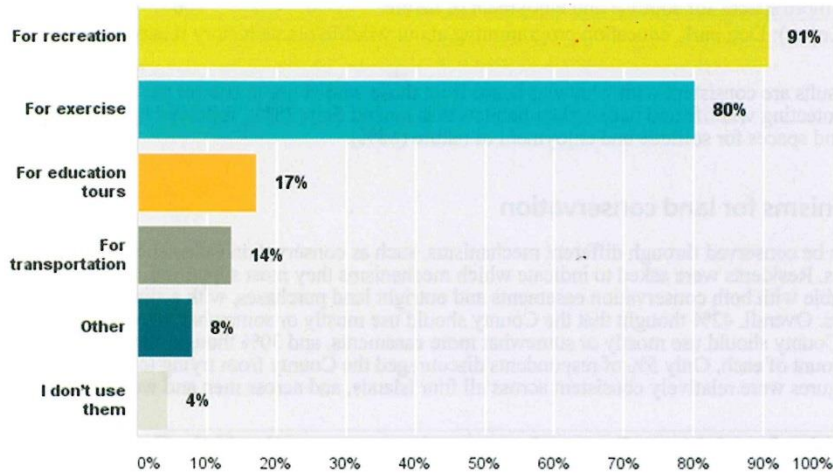
Trails

Trail usage

County trails and walking paths are widely used; 96% of survey respondents answered affirmatively. On all islands, most respondents indicated that they used County trails and walking paths for recreation and/or exercise. This was true for both men and women.

How, if at all, do you use County trails and walking paths? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 339 Skipped: 21



On the non-random survey, 99% said that they use County trails and walking paths, with recreation and exercise again being the most common reasons.

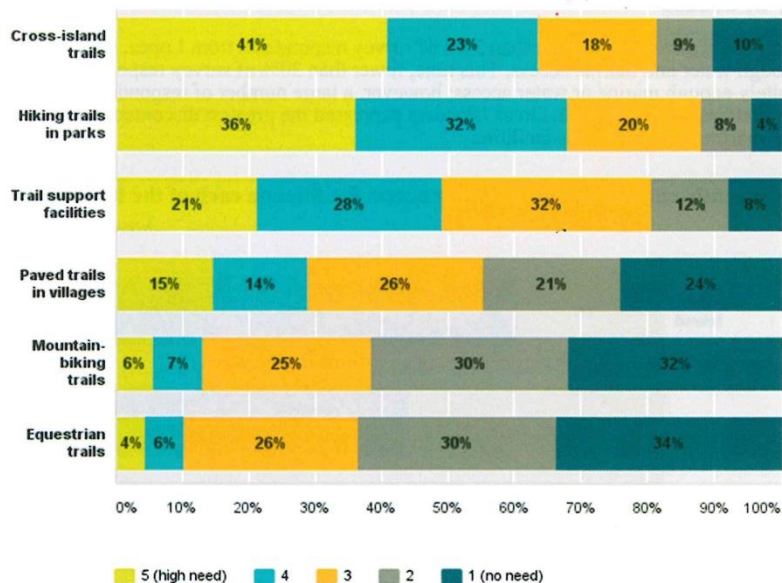
Trail types

When asked about the need for more trail facilities, the majority of respondents on all islands indicated a significant need for more cross-island trails and hiking trails. Respondents over age 35 were more likely to express a high need for more hiking trails than 18- to 34-year olds.

There was much less support for equestrian trails and mountain-biking trails; most of the interest in equestrian trails was on San Juan Island, and the limited interest in mountain-biking trails was mostly from respondents on San Juan and Lopez.

Using a scale of 5 (high need for more) to 1 (no need for more), please rate the need for more of each type of trail facility.

Answered: 336 Skipped: 24



Those who responded to the non-random survey also expressed the greatest interest in more cross-island trails and hiking trails.

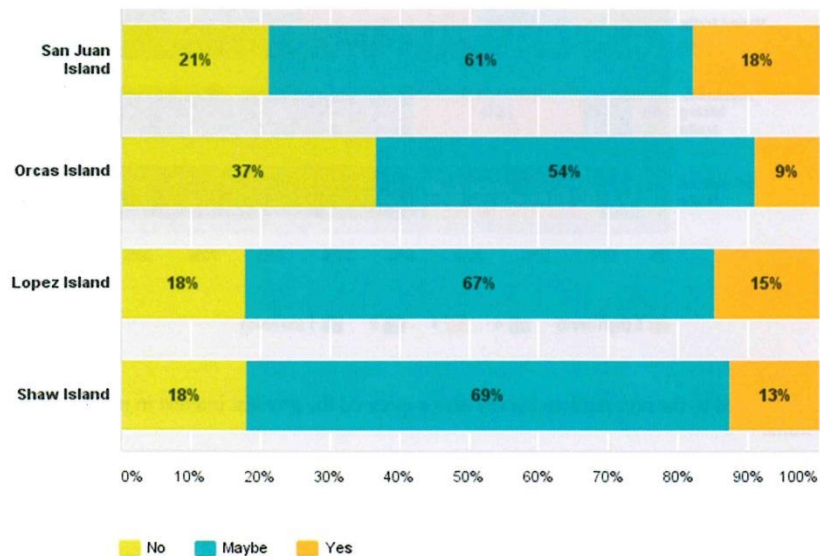
Water access

Adequacy of access

In the previous needs assessment, fewer than 25% of survey respondents from Lopez, Orcas, and Shaw said that there was enough water and marine access. This time, fewer than 20% of survey respondents on all islands said there is definitely enough marine or water access; however, a large number of respondents said “maybe.” A minority said that there is not enough. Orcas Islanders expressed the greatest discontent with the current availability of marine or water access facilities.

Are there currently enough marine or water access facilities on each of the following islands?

Answered: 323 Skipped: 37



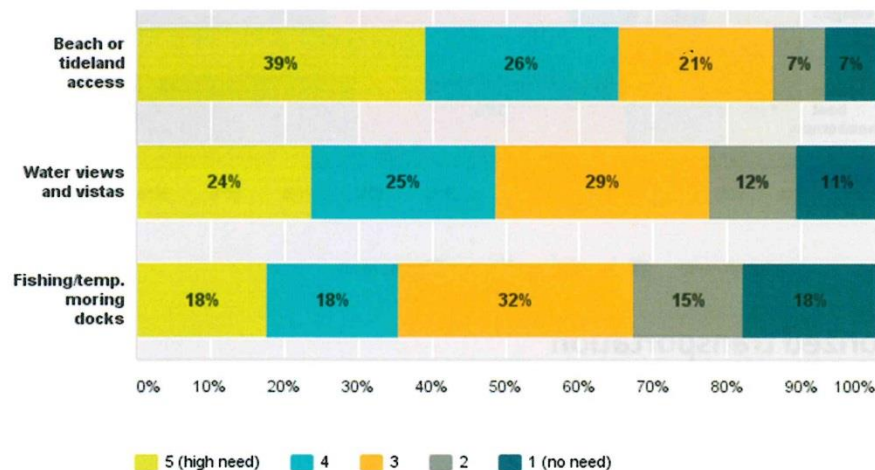
On the non-random survey, similar proportions responded yes and no, and again the most common response was “maybe.”

Type of marine or water access

There is still significant interest in enhanced water and marine access, particularly with regard to beaches and tidelands. Orcas residents in particular expressed strong interest in beach and tideland access. The greatest interest in water views and vistas was found among San Juan and Lopez respondents, while respondents from Shaw and the outer islands were most interested in docks for fishing or temporary moorage.

Using a scale of 5 (high need for more) to 1 (no need for more), please rate the need for more of each type of water or marine access?

Answered: 329 Skipped: 31



Open house attendees also prioritized beach and tideland access (see Appendix C). This is consistent with feedback received during the previous needs assessment survey in 2009.

On the non-random survey, respondents also indicated that they saw the greatest need for more beach or tideland access.

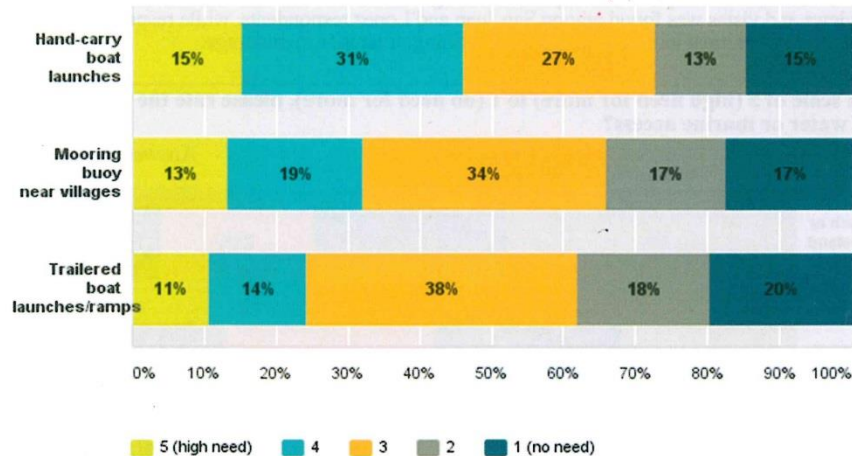
Boat access

Regarding boat access in particular, respondents noted a somewhat greater need for more hand-carry boat launches; this was also the sentiment recorded at the San Juan, Lopez, and Orcas open houses and on the non-random survey.

In addition to hand-carry boat launches, which respondents from all islands prioritized on the randomized survey, San Juan Islanders were interested in having additional trailered boat launches or ramps, whereas Orcas and Lopez respondents expressed relatively more interest in mooring buoys.

Using a scale of 5 (high need for more) to 1 (no need for more), please rate the need for more of each type of boat access?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 42



Non-motorized transportation

As noted earlier, the San Juan County PTNA will now also fulfill requirements for a non-motorized transportation plan. Therefore, residents were asked questions in the survey and at the open houses about the need for non-motorized transportation pathways like trails and bike lanes.

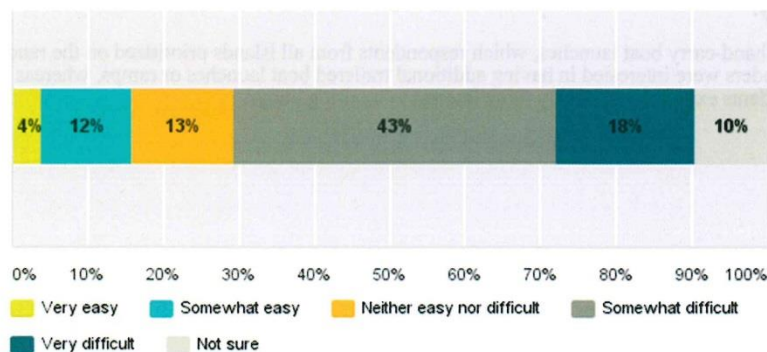
Ease of bicycling in the County

Survey respondents were also asked about the relative ease or difficulty of biking in the County today. Only 16% of respondents said that it is easy; many of these were Lopez residents (39% reporting that it is very or somewhat easy). San Juan and Orcas residents were most likely to say that bicycling is very or somewhat difficult.

Younger respondents were more likely to say that bicycling is easy; 28% of 18- to 34-year olds rated it very or somewhat easy, compared to less than 4% of older respondents.

How easy or difficult would you say it is to bicycle in San Juan County?

Answered: 335 Skipped: 25



On the non-random survey, 35% of respondents said that biking in the County is easy or somewhat easy. Given that the majority of respondents to this survey were from Lopez, this is consistent with what was found through the randomized survey.

Many survey respondents provided comments to explain their reason for saying that bicycling in the County is easy or difficult. Sample responses are provided in the text box, and full responses are in the Appendix B.

Sample comments on the ease of bicycling in the County:

- “Winter biking is somewhat easy while summer biking can be difficult and unacceptably dangerous.”
- “I am fortunate to live off one of the few roads with a significant shoulder.”
- “Biking Lopez and Shaw is much better because of less cars and lower speeds.”
- “Easy to bike on Shaw because there is very little traffic.”
- “Easy but not safe.”

Sample comments on the difficulty of bicycling in the County:

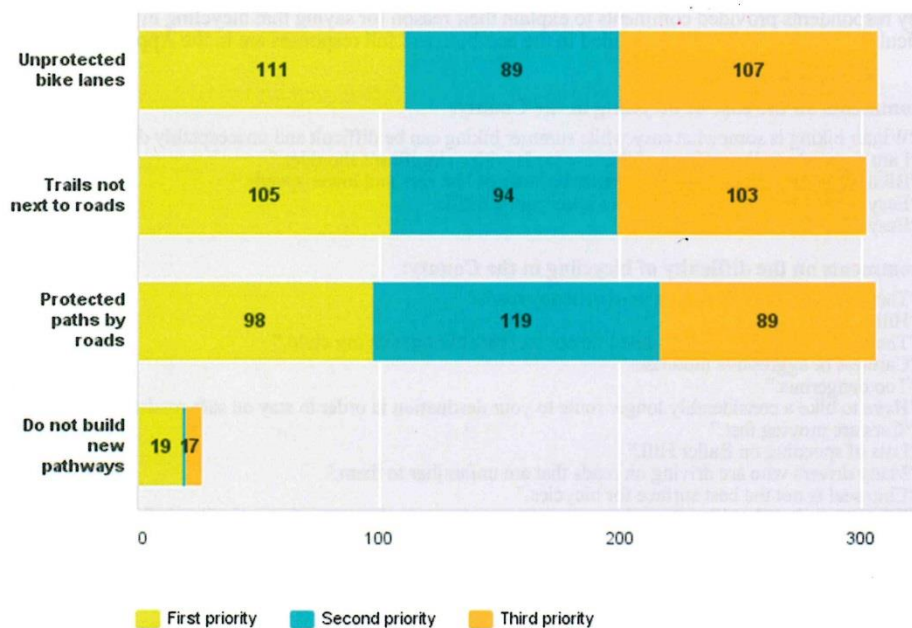
- “There are no shoulders or fog lines on many roads.”
- “Hilly terrain, poor sight lines.”
- “The lack of bike lanes means that I do not feel safe biking with my child.”
- “Careless or aggressive motorists.”
- “Too dangerous.”
- “Have to bike a considerably longer route to your destination in order to stay on safe roadways.”
- “Cars are moving fast.”
- “Lots of speeding on Bailer Hill.”
- “Many drivers who are driving on roads that are unfamiliar to them.”
- “Chip seal is not the best surface for bicycles.”
- “When there is a shoulder, it can have impediments (gravel, glass, etc.) that make it unsafe to ride a bicycle.”
- “Inexperienced tourist riders.”
- “I don’t think the bike tour companies do a good enough job teaching their clients to share the roads.”

Non-motorized transportation pathways

When asked about the relative need for different kinds of pathways (bike lanes on the sides of roads, not protected by a barrier; protected paths by roads for walking, biking, and horse travel; and overland trails that are not next to roads), survey respondents expressed equal interest in all three. Only about 5% of respondents cast their first vote for “do not build new pathways.” San Juan Islanders had a slight preference for bike lanes on the side of roads, and Shaw Islanders had a slight preference for overland trails. Orcas and Lopez respondents were also somewhat less interested in protected pathways next to roads compared to bike lanes and overland trails.

As the County is considering building new pathways for non-motorized transportation (rather than recreation), please prioritize the three types of pathways listed below the options listed below.

Answered: 339 Skipped: 21



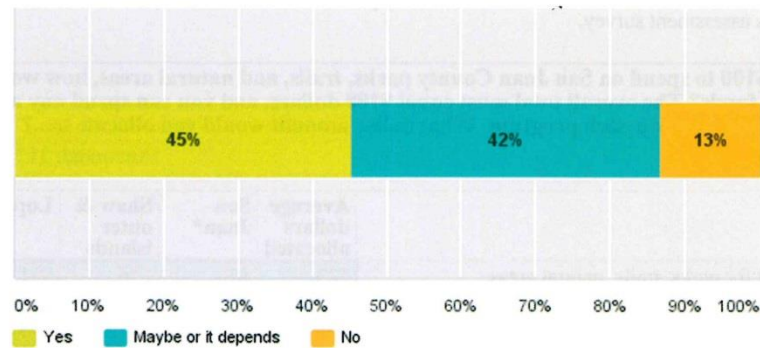
Respondents to the non-random survey prioritized bike lanes on the sides of roads and overland trails; there was clear interest in protected pathways next to roads, but most marked that as second or third priority.

Trail development mechanisms

The County noted in the survey that trail development often requires purchasing new easements or right-of-way access from private property owners so that trails can be set back a safe distance from roads. Survey recipients were asked whether they support the aforementioned new non-motorized transportation pathways if the County would have to buy an easement or right-of-way access for part of their own property. Overall 13% said no, and 87% said yes or maybe. Responses were similar across all four islands.

Would you support building bike lanes, protected pathways, or overland trails for foot, bike, and equestrian travel if it required the County to purchase an easement or right-of-way access for a part of your property?

Answered: 334 Skipped: 26



On the non-random survey, 4% of respondents said they would not support new non-motorized transportation pathways if the County would have to buy an easement or right-of-way access for part of their own property, and 96% said yes or maybe.

Funding priorities and budgets

Residents were asked how they would like to see the County handle budgetary limitations: what would they prioritize given limited resources? What measures would they support for addressing shortfalls or raising additional revenue?

Priorities for spending

Respondents from all four islands put the most dollars towards purchasing land for parks, trails, and natural areas. The second priority was developing separated trails for walking and biking. On San Juan, Lopez, and Orcas, developing on-street bike lanes came in third; on Shaw, upgrading and renovating existing facilities took third place. Developing nature education programs, improving information, and providing spaces for community events or performances ranked low on all islands. These priorities are consistent with those that were reflected in the 2009 needs assessment survey.

If you had \$100 to spend on San Juan County parks, trails, and natural areas, how would you allocate the funds? The overall total must equal \$100 dollars, and you can spend any amount between \$0 and \$100 on each program. What dollar amount would you allocate to...?

Answered: 317 Skipped: 43

Programs	Average dollars allocated	San Juan*	Shaw & outer islands	Lopez	Orcas
Purchase land for parks, trails, natural areas	\$26	\$26	\$46	\$31	\$22
Develop separated trails for walking and biking	\$19	\$20	\$17	\$15	\$20
Develop on-street bicycle lanes	\$18	\$20	\$6	\$17	\$18
Upgrade and renovate existing facilities	\$13	\$11	\$14	\$14	\$14
Improve access to the water/beach	\$13	\$11	\$9	\$14	\$15
Provide spaces for community events or performances	\$4	\$6	\$2	\$3	\$3
Develop a nature education program	\$4	\$3	\$1	\$3	\$4
Improve information on parks, trails, and natural areas	\$3	\$3	\$4	\$3	\$3
Total	\$100				

*Rounded to the nearest dollar.

Responses to the non-random survey were similar, with the same three programs allocated the most dollars.

Programs	Average dollars allocated
Purchase land for parks, trails, natural areas	\$38
Develop separated trails for walking and biking	\$16
Develop on-street bicycle lanes	\$14
Upgrade and renovate existing facilities	\$10
Improve access to the water/beach	\$13
Provide spaces for community events or performances	\$2
Develop a nature education program	\$4
Improve information on parks, trails, and natural areas	\$4
Total	\$100

Open house attendees on all four islands also ranked purchasing land and developing separated trails among the top three priorities for spending on County parks, trails, and natural areas (see Table 7). The open house inquiry format was slightly different than in the survey, with each participant being given 10 dots to represent \$10 that they could allocate among the different programs (so the columns in this table do not add up to \$100).

Table 7. Open house input on funding priorities, with top 3 priorities highlighted

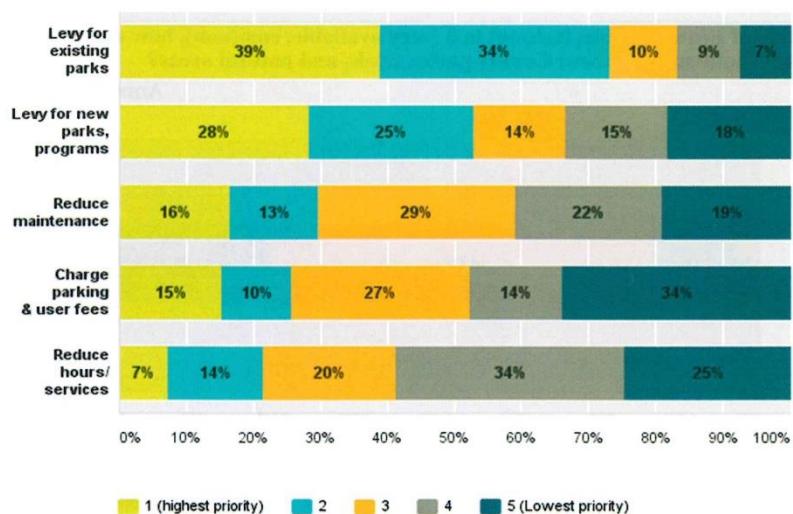
If we gave you \$10 to improve County parks, trails, and natural areas, how would you spend it?	Shaw	SJI	Lopez	Orcas
Purchase land for parks, trails, natural areas	40	47	56	14
Develop separated trails for walking and biking	18	36	48	15
Develop on-street bicycle lanes	2	27	44	14
Upgrade and renovate existing facilities	15	21	15	13
Improve access to the water/beach	13	40	40	14
Provide spaces for community events or performances	1	11	3	0
Develop a nature education program	11	12	21	3
Improve information on parks, trails, and natural areas	4	10	19	2

Raising revenue

When it came to making difficult decisions to address funding shortfalls, survey respondents preferred to raise money by asking voters to approve additional funding—particularly for existing parks and programs, but also for new ones. Charging parking and user fees and reducing hours or services were the least desirable options. These opinions were reflected at fairly similar rates across all of the islands. Those who responded to the non-randomized survey generally agreed with these preferences.

If it came to a choice due to limited budgets, how would you prioritize the following measures to address funding shortfalls from highest priority (1) to lowest priority (5)?

Answered: 317 Skipped: 43



Open house attendees on all four islands also ranked “ask voters to approve funding to maintain existing parks and programs” and “ask voters to approve new funding for parks and programs” as the most palatable measures to address funding shortfalls. Increasing park user fees and reducing operating hours and expenses were least desirable on San Juan and Lopez. Open house attendees on Shaw and Orcas felt that charging for parking at day parks and reducing maintenance frequency were particularly undesirable (see Appendix C for details).

Responses to the non-random survey reflected the same preferences, prioritizing going to the voters over charging user fees or reducing maintenance or services. Reducing operating hours and services was seen as particularly objectionable.

In the 2009 survey, respondents felt similarly about these options. However, their top priority was using volunteers for some maintenance. While that was not given as an option in this year's survey, some respondents submitted comments indicating that they saw more potential to use volunteers:

- "As far as priorities for funding and making do in tight financial times, I think a LOT more could be done to get volunteers to work on public recreational facilities."
- "More could be done to recruit volunteers to help maintain facilities."
- "Our island schools encourage (Dollars-for-Scholars, 11th Grade Community Service Project) students to volunteer in the community. It seems this would be a perfect opportunity to involve various groups in the upkeep of the parks/trails that we all enjoy so much & thereby reduce operation costs."
- "Better communicate volunteer opportunities."
- "I would like to see the County create a County Conservation Corps for teenage residents to volunteer to maintain parks and trails."
- "Enlist volunteer groups/nonprofits to maintain, create, and fund trails/pathways."

Information

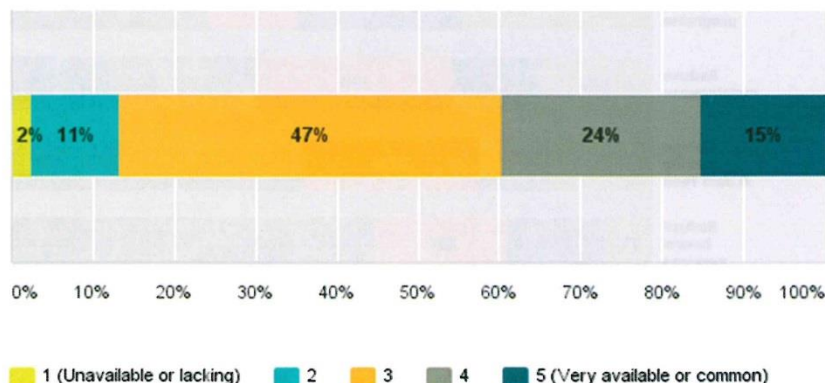
Information access

Surveyed residents were asked how easy it is for them to find information about County parks, trails, and natural areas. While there is perceived room for improvement, only 2% of respondents felt that information is lacking or completely unavailable.

Responses were similar to those received in the 2009 survey, where the most common response was that information was "somewhat available" and less than 4% of respondents said that information was lacking or unavailable.

Using a scale of 1 (unavailable, lacking) to 5 (very available, common), how would you rate the availability of information about County parks, trails, and natural areas?

Answered: 295 Skipped: 65



On this year's non-random survey, responses were similar, with most (63%) saying that information is somewhat available, and none saying that it is lacking or unavailable.

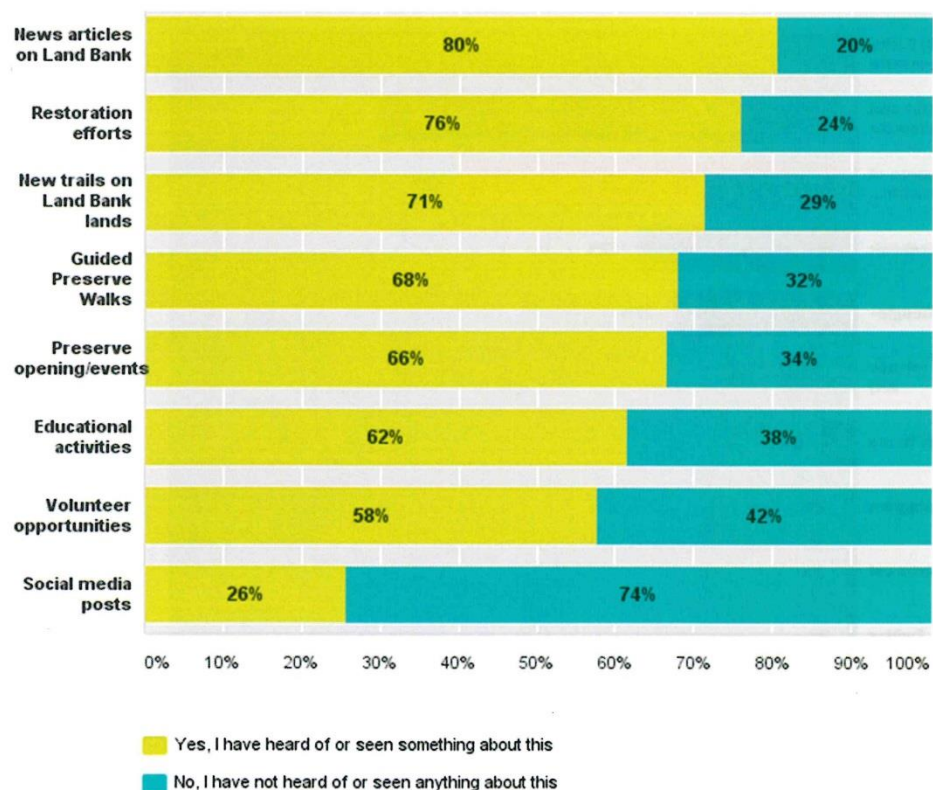
Information about Land Bank programs

The Land Bank in particular was interested in learning whether its efforts to better inform the community about its programs have been fruitful. Survey respondents indicated that they had been exposed to many of these programs, but few of them (26%) had seen the Land Bank's social media posts; younger respondents (ages 18-34) were not significantly more likely to have seen the social media posts. News articles about Land Bank conservation successes are reaching the most people; 80% of respondents (slightly more on San Juan and Orcas, and slightly fewer on Lopez and Shaw) had seen some of these.

San Juan Islanders had greater awareness of Land Bank preserve openings or events, guided preserve walks, educational activities, and restoration efforts than respondents from other islands.

Over the last five years, the San Juan County Land Bank has been working to better inform the community about its accomplishments and programs and to get more people involved. Which of the following have you seen or heard about?

Answered: 339 Skipped: 21



Respondents to the non-random survey were also most likely to have seen or heard about news articles about Land Bank conservation successes, restoration efforts by the Land Bank, and new trails on Land Bank lands, and least likely to have seen the Land Bank's social media posts.

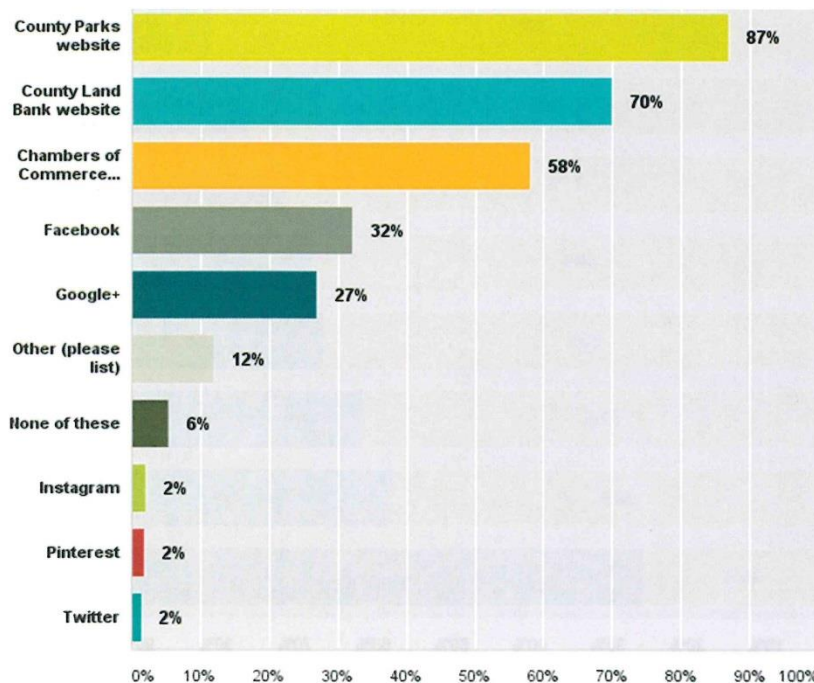
Preferred information channels

When asked about information channels for learning about a broad range of County parks, trails, and natural areas, websites were the most popular option. Most respondents (87%) said they wanted to use the County Parks website; while this was also the top choice during the previous needs assessment in 2009, its popularity has only increased, perhaps due to increased connectivity on the islands. The County Land Bank website (70%) and Chamber of Commerce website (58%) were also relatively popular. Pinterest, Instagram, and Twitter were the least desirable information channels, with only 2% of respondents ranking those among their top four options. These preferences were consistent across the four islands.

Survey respondents also mentioned some other online outlets that they would like to use to find information about County parks, trails, and natural areas. Some that were mentioned multiple times include Lopez Rocks, local online newspapers, tourist brochures, and the San Juan Visitors Bureau.

Which of the four following online or social media outlets would you most want to use to find information about County parks, trail, and natural area facilities? (Select up to four.)

Answered: 326 Skipped: 34



Those who responded to the non-random survey also indicated that they preferred to get information from County websites.

Additional comments generally indicated that people would like more information, though some also expressed concern about increased crowding if the parks were broadly advertised. Sample comments included:

- “As the owner of a tourism rental facility in Friday Harbor, I would like to have an all-encompassing place to get all this information. Currently I have to preview several different sites to just get the very basic information I need to pass onto my guests.”
- “I have seen minimal information on the County parks, trails and natural area--didn't even realize that they have trails.”

- “It turns out I only know the parks on my own island, with just one or two exceptions. I wouldn't know where to go to find info about these areas on other islands.”
- “I want to see our current parks, trails and natural areas protected and not overly advertised so they won't attract a greater amount of tourists. I don't want the county to use apps or other social media to increase use of our lands or promote tourism.”

Other comments

At the end of the survey, respondents were given an opportunity to share any other comments about San Juan County parks, trails, or natural areas, and 167 respondents chose to do so. The full set of comments from the randomized survey is provided in Appendix B.

Many of the comments elaborated on opinions expressed earlier in the survey, such as with regard to beach access, bicycle safety, and the optimal amount of parks and natural areas.

In addition, several people commented on dog walking opportunities and practices. Three people mentioned that they appreciate the gravel pit on San Juan Island, where they are allowed to let their dogs go off-leash, and emphasized that they hope this continues. A couple of people also expressed a need for more garbage cans in parks and natural areas, to make it easier for people to clean up and dispose of dog droppings.

Comments received during the open houses are provided in Appendix C. Many of those comments pertained to specific places on each island where residents would like to see new walking or biking trails or marine facilities.

Comments from the non-random survey are included in Appendix D.

4. CONCLUSION

Through the public engagement process, a few priority issues rose to the top for consideration by the County in the update of the PTNA.

Importance of parks, trails, and natural areas. The great majority of residents felt that parks, trails, and natural areas are very important to their communities and to their quality of life, and they use County-owned areas frequently, particularly for walking and hiking. Quite a few comments expressed appreciation for the work of the Parks & Fair Department and the Land Bank. The services that they provide are clearly meeting a widely shared public interest.

Land conservation. 63% of respondents felt that not enough land is being conserved. Residents showed particular interest in protecting wildlife and native plant habitats and having more hiking and biking trails.

Trails. Residents on all islands indicated a significant need for more cross-island trails and hiking trails. These would likely be used for recreation as well as non-motorized transportation.

Non-motorized transportation. Very few (16%) of residents felt that it is easy to bicycle in the County, and many wrote comments expressing serious concerns about safety. This indicates that options to increase bicycle safety warrant special attention. This is a visible need on all four ferry-served islands, but perhaps even more urgent on San Juan and Orcas. The limitations associated with road-widening mean that options are constrained. Given the comments received, opportunities may include creating handouts on good biking practices and recommended routes to distribute at rental shops and other places; working with the Washington Department of Transportation and law enforcement to reduce or enforce speed limits on certain stretches of roadway; paving shoulders so they are more bike-friendly than chip seal; and creating separated bike lanes (with barriers) or overland dirt paths where possible. Developing on-street bicycle lanes and separated trails for biking and walking were two of the top three funding priorities selected by most residents.

Funding. Tax increases are unpopular, and a number of residents expressed concern about rising taxes due to existing affordability issues. Nevertheless, it appears that during a funding crunch, tax increases would be significantly more palatable to most residents than charging park user or parking fees or reducing services or maintenance.

Water and marine access. There was not a clear and strong demand for significant efforts to increase water and marine access, but many responded with some ambivalence or seemed unsure about what is already available. At the open houses, it was clear that many residents were unaware of some road-end shoreline access areas on their own islands. Still, despite the lack of strong demand, there was general interest in finding ways to expand access. Some residents (such as those on Orcas) were particularly interested in more beach and tideland access, while others (such as those on Shaw and outer islands) were interested in docks for fishing or temporary moorage. Residents would also like more maintenance and upkeep of road-end shoreline access areas.

Information provision. Most people preferred to get information about County parks, trails, and natural areas through websites, but they felt that there is room for improvement in the information provided on County websites. Efforts to improve the provision and availability of information should focus first on websites before trying to make further strides via social media and other channels.

San Juan

Please Grade the Areas You've Visited....	A	B	C	D	F	Haven't visited
Reuben Tarte Park	5	8	3	0	0	5
Eagle Cove Beach	7	11	1	0	0	2
San Juan County Park	10	8	2	0	0	1
Turn Point	5	9	1	3	0	4
Friday Harbor to American Camp Trail	8	3	3	0	0	6
Road-end Shoreline Access Areas	2	2	4	5	0	7
Other County Park or Area on San Juan Island:						
Third Lagoon	4					
Cattle Point	8					
English Camp	4					
Jackle's Lagoon	4					
Young Hill	5					
Mount Grant	3	1				

Comments

Trails:

- Connect national park, Roche Harbor, and Cady Mountain.
- Can we make trails along waterways/creeks that connect all the way from the Sound to the hilltops?
- Apply for motel/hotel monies for developing trails on islands
- OPALCO's right-of-way could be utilized as a way to have bike trails or foot paths.
- Greenway for running along Roche Harbor Rd.
- Trails along creeks and dry bed from False Bay to Mount Grant.
- Want trail for kids from the school to Jackson Beach – whole sub was to have public access to Sunday Drive.
- Simple cross-island trails could connect public lands and allow for a true hiking experience.
- Foot path trail connecting Sunday Drive Trail corner access with Sunrise and across and under electric right-of-way to gravel pit.
- A multi-use trail along Valley Farms Rd / Ranchos Rd would be really useful.
- Multi-use trail from Lime Kiln to the County Park.
- Existing logging roads would require little improvement to create trails.
- Purpose built trails are less impactful and better meet users' needs in the long term. Do not just use existing resource extraction routes!
- Need to take into account sensitive wildlife habitat and sensitive areas when planning trail routes.

Biking:

- Can we make bike paths or walking trails off road to get them off the road and away from cars? For example, a path from Valley Farms Rd to Wold Rd or Bailer Hill Rd.
- Separate bike trails from busy major roads like Bailer Hill.
- West side corridor should remain a priority – bikes in summer going to Lime Kiln cause safety concerns when mixed in with traffic.
- Safety concerns with bicycle riding on Roche Harbor Rd, Bailer Hill Rd, West Valley / Beaverton Valley.
- Lanpad (?) to schoolhouse is good conceptual bike/trail path.
- Separated bike lane = high priority.
- Bike path separated from roadway improves cycling experience and safety. Utilize OPALCO corridor.
- Need bike pullout at Bailer Hill Rd and Douglas Rd.
- Separated bike trails for safety on major roads.
- Multi-use / bike commuter flow trail next to Douglas Rd.

Land acquisition:

- Prioritize additional land acquisition adjacent to the Mt. Grant property.
- Mount Grant along with adjacent properties would preserve an exceptional portion of San Juan uplands comparable to Turtleback – prioritize this area.

Other needs/comments:

- Would be great to have kayak launching from Halsey Road End and Jensen Bay Road End (or one of the two).
- Legitimize public access in Trout Lake.
- On board to keep area in town (near Grover St E and Hunt St) open for path to gravel pit – don't want to wait for road to go in.
- Would be useful to have copies of this map available online or in hard copy.
- County Parks and road end access places are fabulous and are well maintained within capacity; infrastructure could use improvement.

San Juan Island Open House Photos



Figure 7. Attendees at the San Juan Island open house rank the local parks and natural areas.



Figure 8. Attendees at the San Juan Island open house review a map of local parks and natural areas.

Shaw

Please Grade the Areas You've Visited....	A	B	C	D	F	Haven't visited
Shaw County Park	10	1	0	0	0	0
Neck-Point road-end shoreline access area	2	1	0	0	0	7

Comments

Trails:

- Reef Net trail should come out on Robertson Rd.
- Reef Net trail should come back along road to campground.
- Walking path through UW preserve from trail entry circling back to Squaw Bay Rd.
- Want to see trail developed on UW land.
- More trails wanted in bio-preserve, especially on the water.
- Add Preservation Trust land to the map so trail corridor connections might be better understood – also add UW land.
- Trail below Ben Nevis to airport, and one that starts at St. Luke's and comes out near the airport.
- Eastern edge of island would be a great spot for a trail, but it's all private.
- Connect South Beach County Park to UW land.
- Connection trail between pieces of South Beach County park on Lopez

Biking:

- Off-road trail for bikes/pedestrians from ferry to community building.

Other needs/comments:

- Consider a no-parking sign at the Hoffman Cove road end. That spot is our only turnaround.
- Smugglers Cove Rd Shore Access is used as hand launch site.
- Road flooding where Ben Nevis Loop curves west towards Broken Point Rd.
- Smugglers Cove Rd south of shore access site needs ditching.
- Is there parking for the public at the Harbor Way shore access site?
- Cliff near east portion of South Beach County Park is swiftly eroding, especially in the last 2 weeks.

Shaw Island Open House Photos



Figure 9. Open house on Shaw.



Figure 10. Discussing non-motorized transportation needs on Shaw Island.

Lopez

Please Grade the Areas You've Visited....	A	B	C	D	F	Haven't visited
Agate Beach	13	2	5	0	0	0
Shark Reef Sanctuary	19	2	1	0	0	0
Odlin County Park	15	6	2	0	0	0
MacKaye Harbor Dock	8	3	1	0	0	7
Otis Perkins Park	18	0	3	0	0	0
Blackie Brady	10	3	2	0	0	3
Hunter Bay Dock	2	9	4	0	0	3
Mud Bay Beach	0	2	5	0	0	6
Road-end Shoreline Access Area	4	0	5	3	0	4
Other County Park or Area on Lopez Island:						
Lopez Hill		1				
Low-tide beach walking	1					
Lopez Village Park	3					

Comments

Trails:

- Improve the trail at Shark Reef Sanctuary.
- School to village.
- Urban trails in Lopez Village.

- Sunrise to Sunset trail – use public right-of-way from road end on Sunrise side & airport drainage on Sunset side.
- Need walking trails around school – on Center Rd to tennis courts, and Center Rd. to Mike's Mech.
- North/south, east/west foot trails from one end of the island to the other.
- Let's get some village walking trails connecting everything.
- Off road foot path from village to ferry.
- I think we need bicycle/walking lanes separated from main roads, but parallel to them across the island going N/S and E/W. It would be great to be able to walk/bike to the Village. It would also promote tourism in a positive way.

Biking:

- From Paradise & Richardson to Burt Road, off main car route – vistas throughout.
- Area just north of Lopez Hill is underutilized – off main routes, cool shade.
- Between Port Stanley Rd and Spencer Spit State Park – make this the primary route, away from main traffic. Great for sharing historic farms and vistas.
- Along Lopez Rd – better, away from cars.
- A route next to Aleck Bay Rd would be better, away from cars and traffic.
- Trail over the length of the island with lots of side routes.
- Separate bicycle trails along the main road.
- Ferry to village bike/hike.
- Need wider biking/walking trails along FB Rd from Village to Bay Shore Rd. Very busy in summer.
- Recommend wider bike trail on Center Rd to Mud Bay intersection (very busy road).
- More bike pullouts at critical areas or short paths around dangerous curves.
- From school to the south island is extremely dangerous. The road needs shoulders.
- Bicycle lanes along all main roads.
- Library Hill Rd bicycle shoulder widening for summer safety.
- Pedestrian/bicycle space along road from ferry to village.

Land acquisition:

- Purchase Lopez Hill.

Other needs/comments:

- Sperry Street Road Ends A & B are a nice location / destination.
- Please pump restrooms more often and keep main trail away from them.
- Dog park is a priority.
- Education/programming about wildlife/plants/history of land.
- I would like more interpretive panels and programs/opportunities for learning about plants and wildlife.
- Puncheons in the wetlands area at Shark Reef.

Lopez Island Open House Photos



Figure 11. The Director of the Department of Community Development discusses the non-motorized transportation plan with a local resident on Lopez.



Figure 12. Attendees at the Lopez Island open house.



Figure 13. Discussing needs related to marine facilities and shore access on Lopez Island.

Orcas

Please Grade the Areas You've Visited....	A	B	C	D	F	Haven't visited
Eastsound Waterfront Park	7	0	0	0	0	0
North Beach Road End	2	3	2	0	1	0
Obstruction Pass Dock	4	1	1	0	0	0
Eastsound Library Park	5	1	1	0	0	0
Eastsound Village Green	4	3	0	0	0	0
Madrona Point Public Dock	3	2	1	0	0	0
Westsound Dock	4	1	2	0	0	0
Road-end Shoreline Access Area	2	0	3	1	2	0
Orcas Landing	2	0	4	1	0	0
<i>Other County Park or Area on Orcas Island:</i>						
EJ Young Buck Bay Access				1		
West Beach Road End				1		

Comments

Trails:

- Public path along Deer Harbor, Firehouse road frontage, please.
- Open more trails in Stonebridge Terril Preserve.

Biking:

- Potential ped/bike path along Orcas Rd, Emma's Ln, Minnow Creek Ln, and north overland.
- Re-stripe Flaherty Hill to accommodate an uphill lane for bikes.
- Both bikes and equestrians every day (Turtleback Mountain).
- Bike trail on uphill (Legion Hill) one way.
- Bike trails or wider roads on the south end.
- More wide pullouts at the top of hills.
- Use easement rather than road for trail where possible.

Land acquisition:

- Enlarge North Beach road end into a park; acquire neighboring property.

Marine facilities and road ends:

- Add facilities like restroom, parking, and information kiosk at Madrona Point.
- Add kayak launch and parking at Madrona Point.
- There should be something on the west side of Lopez.
- Need public dock near entrance to Fisherman Bay on Lopez.
- Public Works should purchase preserve / Richardson Dock.
- Put resources into evaluating and appropriately developing priority road ends. Maintain existing so as not to "lose".
- Remove illegal gate, stairway to beach at Terril Beach road end.
- Connect Mt. Baker road end to Pt. Doughty.

Other needs/comments:

- Moran new trail shore access?
- New Land Bank acquisition not marked on the map (near Olga Dock).
- Who owns Patos, Sucia, and Matia islands?
- Close road by Crescent Beach Preserve.
- Remove tree in middle of trail just west of Crescent Beach Preserve.

Orcas Island Open House Photos



Figure 14. Orcas Island residents discuss priorities for water access and marine facilities.

Additional results from all islands

In a calendar year, how often do you...

Almost daily 1-2 days /week 1-3 days /month <12 days /year <1 day /year Almost never

San Juan Island

Hike or walk?	16	5	1	1	0	0
Ride a bicycle?	0	3	9	3	1	0
Walk a dog?	5	2	3	2	4	1
Play or watch a game on a county playfield?	0	0	2	2	7	2
Ride horses?	0	0	1	0	9	2
Go camping?	0	0	4	7	6	0
Go fishing>	0	0	1	2	7	1
Dive (scuba or snorkel)?	0	0	1	1	7	1
Observe wildlife or relax in nature?	15	3	2	0	1	0
Use a sail boat, power boat, or other trailered boat?	0	0	4	9	4	1
Use a kayak, canoe, dinghy, or other hand-carried boat?	2	0	2	15	0	2

Shaw Island

Hike or walk?	5	5	3	0	0	0
Ride a bicycle?	0	1	3	2	2	0
Walk a dog?	2	3	0	1	3	0
Play or watch a game on a county playfield?	0	0	0	6	3	0
Ride horses?	0	0	0	0	5	0
Go camping?	0	0	1	1	3	0
Go fishing>	0	0	0	6	4	0
Dive (scuba or snorkel)?	0	0	0	0	7	0
Observe wildlife or relax in nature?	7	2	4	0	0	0
Use a sail boat, power boat, or other trailered boat?	0	0	6	0	2	0
Use a kayak, canoe, dinghy, or other hand-carried boat?	2	1	5	4	0	0

Lopez Island

Hike or walk?	15	9	0	1	0	0
Ride a bicycle?	1	5	7	3	5	0
Walk a dog?	8	2	0	3	0	2
Play or watch a game on a county playfield?	0	0	1	1	13	0
Ride horses?	0	0	0	0	6	2
Go camping?	0	0	2	7	4	1
Go fishing>	0	0	1	2	7	1
Dive (scuba or snorkel)?	0	0	0	0	6	3
Observe wildlife or relax in nature?	20	0	1	1	1	0
Use a sail boat, power boat, or other trailered boat?	0	2	2	5	2	1
Use a kayak, canoe, dinghy, or other hand-carried boat?	0	5	1	6	3	0

In a calendar year, how often do you...

Almost daily 1-2 days /week 1-3 days /month <12 days /year <1 day /year Almost never

Orcas Island

Hike or walk?	4	1	1	1	0	0
Ride a bicycle?	0	1	1	0	2	0
Walk a dog?	2	0	1	0	1	0
Play or watch a game on a county playfield?	0	0	0	3	0	0
Ride horses?	0	0	0	0	3	0
Go camping?	0	0	0	5	0	0
Go fishing>	0	0	0	3	1	0
Dive (scuba or snorkel)?	0	0	0	0	2	0

Observe wildlife or relax in nature?	4	3	0	0	0	0
Use a sail boat, power boat, or other trailered boat?	0	1	0	2	1	0
Use a kayak, canoe, dinghy, or other hand-carried boat?	0	0	2	1	1	0

Faced with budget shortfalls, how would you prioritize the following funding measures?	Highest priority	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Lowest priority
San Juan Island					
Ask voters to approve funding to maintain existing parks and programs	13	5	1	1	0
Ask voters to approve new funding for parks and programs	7	7	2	1	0
Charge for parking at day parks	0	2	4	9	0
Increase park user fees	1	2	5	6	4
Reduce maintenance frequency (cleaning and groundskeeping)	2	4	1	10	2
Reduce operating hours and services	0	2	1	1	13
Shaw Island					
Ask voters to approve funding to maintain existing parks and programs	7	2	1	0	0
Ask voters to approve new funding for parks and programs	4	0	4	1	1
Charge for parking at day parks	0	0	1	1	3
Increase park user fees	0	4	0	1	2
Reduce maintenance frequency (cleaning and groundskeeping)	0	0	1	0	4
Reduce operating hours and services	0	0	1	1	3
Lopez Island					
Ask voters to approve funding to maintain existing parks and programs	9	4	2	0	0
Ask voters to approve new funding for parks and programs	10	3	2	1	2
Charge for parking at day parks	2	0	4	3	8
Increase park user fees	0	1	0	1	11
Reduce maintenance frequency (cleaning and groundskeeping)	3	0	1	6	5
Reduce operating hours and services	0	0	1	1	13
Orcas Island					
Ask voters to approve funding to maintain existing parks and programs	4	0	0	0	0
Ask voters to approve new funding for parks and programs	0	3	1	0	0
Charge for parking at day parks	0	0	1	0	4
Increase park user fees	0	0	0	4	1
Reduce maintenance frequency (cleaning and groundskeeping)	0	0	1	0	4
Reduce operating hours and services	0	0	1	1	3

What does your island need to improve water access and boating?	Great need for more	Significant need for more	Moderate need for more	Slight need for more	No need for more
San Juan Island					
Water viewpoints and vistas	6	6	4	2	0
Docks for fishing or temporary moorage	1	5	3	4	0
Beach or tideland access	12	5	3	0	0
Hand-carry boat launches	14	1	3	1	0
Trailer boat launches	1	3	4	4	1
Mooring buoys near villages	4	2	6	2	0
Other needs?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shaw Island					
Water viewpoints and vistas	0	2	2	1	0
Docks for fishing or temporary moorage	1	2	2	0	1
Beach or tideland access	2	2	0	0	1
Hand-carry boat launches	0	1	1	0	1
Trailer boat launches	0	3	0	0	2
Mooring buoys near villages	1	1	0	0	2
Other needs?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lopez Island					
Water viewpoints and vistas	4	3	2	6	0
Docks for fishing or temporary moorage	3	4	5	2	1
Beach or tideland access	12	4	0	1	1
Hand-carry boat launches	10	4	0	0	1
Trailer boat launches	3	2	2	2	1
Mooring buoys near villages	1	8	2	1	1
Other needs?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Orcas Island					
Water viewpoints and vistas	1	2	2	0	0
Docks for fishing or temporary moorage	0	0	2	0	0
Beach or tideland access	6	0	0	0	0
Hand-carry boat launches	5	0	0	0	0
Trailer boat launches	2	1	0	0	0
Mooring buoys near villages	0	0	1	0	0
Other needs?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

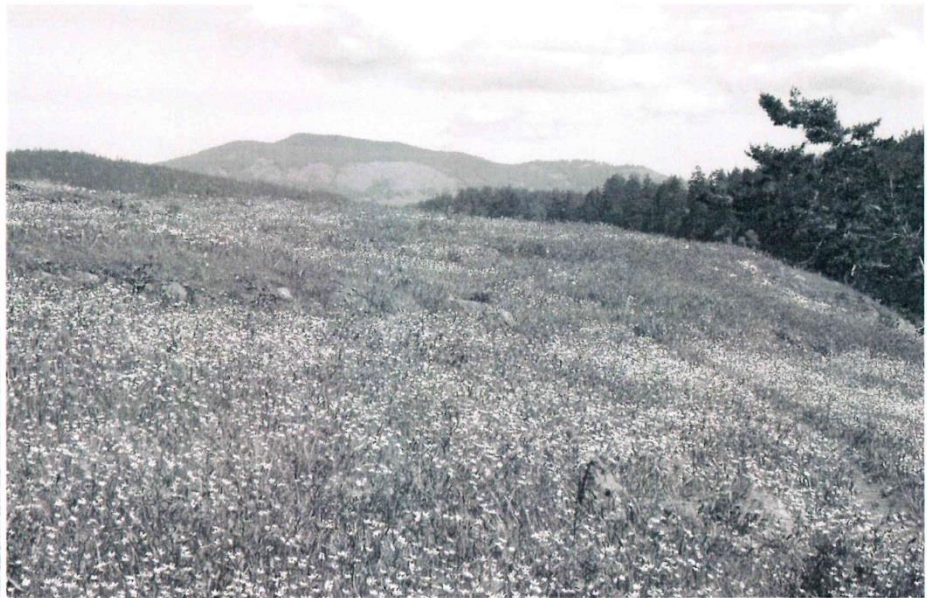
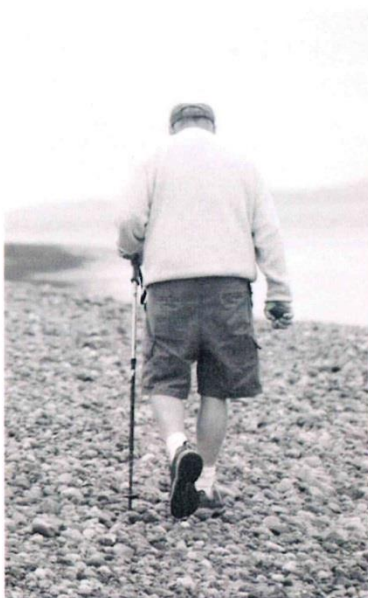
Appendix C. Conservation Finance Feasibility Study 2010

NOTE: This Section has been reformatted. Content remains the same.

(Originals of this report available through San Juan County Parks & Fair Department)

CONSERVATION FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDY :: MAY 2010

SAN JUAN COUNTY, WA



THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

SAN JUAN COUNTY, WA :: CONSERVATION FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDY :: MAY 2010



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TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND :: RESEARCH DEPARTMENT 2

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INTRODUCTION

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and natural areas. Since 1972, TPL has conserved more than 2.4 million acres of land nationwide. In Washington, TPL has helped protect more than 78,000 acres.

To help state agencies and local governments acquire land, TPL assists communities in identifying and securing public financing. TPL's Conservation Finance program offers technical assistance to elected officials, public agencies and community groups to design, pass and implement public funding measures that reflect popular priorities.

Overall, voter support of local conservation finance measures in Washington has been mixed. Roughly 47 percent of measures (17 of 36) on the ballot between 1998 and 2009 have been approved, though the record has improved in recent years with 78 percent of measures (7 of 9) passing since 2006. Success at the ballot is hampered somewhat in the state by the high approval threshold (60 percent of the vote) required for local bond measures. TPL and its affiliate The Conservation Campaign¹ have supported 16 local conservation finance measures in Washington, 11 of which were approved.

This brief study presents a variety of public funding options potentially available to San Juan County for financing the acquisition and maintenance of land (or development rights) for conservation, trails and parks purposes. There are a number of potential funding options that can be "knit together" to protect land and increase access to public land in the county. While state, federal, local, and private sources all have a role to play in achieving parks and conservation objectives, the most reliable form of funding over the long-term is local funding. State, federal, and private funding often serve as supplements or incentives to local funding due to the competitive funding environment.

This report starts with a summary of relevant state and federal conservation and recreation funding programs that may be leveraged by local governments. This information is followed by an examination of the options for generating and dedicating local revenue for conservation and parks including the revenue raising capacity and costs of several financing tools.² Together, the information on the following pages will provide a guide for considering public finance options to fund the provision of additional parks, access to recreation opportunities, and the protection of open spaces in the county.

Next steps should include narrowing funding options to those that match the needs identified in the county's planning processes and testing voter attitudes toward a specific set of funding proposals. TPL recommends conducting a public opinion survey that tests ballot language, tax tolerance, and program priorities of voters in San Juan County.

¹ The Conservation Campaign (TCC) is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization affiliated with TPL. TCC mobilizes public support for ballot measures and legislation that create public funds to protect land and water resources.

² The contents of the report are based on the best available information at the time of research and drafting (spring 2010), with much of the data compiled from Internet resources and direct communication with appropriate, local, state and federal agencies.

PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE PROVIDER OVERVIEW

Parks, recreation, and open spaces are provided and maintained by several different entities within San Juan County. Local government departments and agencies include: the San Juan County Land Bank, Parks and Recreation Department, and Public Works Department; Island Rec District on San Juan Island; and Orcas Island Recreation and Orcas Park and Recreation District on Orcas Island. San Juan County also works in partnership with federal and state conservation agencies as well as private entities such as the San Juan Preservation Trust to achieve recreation and conservation objectives.³

San Juan County Parks

The San Juan County Parks, Recreation and Fair Department with assistance from the Parks & Recreation Commission has the authority and responsibility for providing parks and recreation to county residents. The county parks funding comes primarily from fees for services (49%), such as camping, commercial and event permits; lodging tax funds (20%); and county property tax levy (31%). In 2009, county voters approved a proposal to raise county property taxes to fund several public services including parks.

San Juan County Land Bank

In 1990 San Juan County voters approved funding the establishment of the Land Bank through a one-percent real estate transfer tax for a 12-year period. This tax is paid by purchasers of property in the county. In 1999, by a nearly 73 percent majority vote, the Land Bank program was renewed for 12 more years (from 2002 to 2014). The current authorization sunsets in 2014. Land Bank funds are used to purchase land for conservation purposes, and some of these lands may be developed by the county for passive recreation. Decisions about how to spend Land Bank funds are made by a commission of seven citizens representing all the islands. Land Bank Commissioners are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and serve four-year terms.

The Land Bank receives about \$2 million each year, mostly from the one-percent real estate transfer tax. Often the Land Bank leverages these funds with grant funding secured from private organizations and the state or federal government. The Land Bank funds its management costs by setting aside money in a special stewardship fund each time a property is acquired. This fund generates interest income used to manage and maintain Land Bank preserves and conservation easement properties.

³ While the scope of this funding report is to review relevant public funding options to fulfill conservation and recreation objectives, it is important to note the important role private philanthropy plays in achieving conservation objectives in every community, especially San Juan County. The San Juan Preservation Trust has played a significant role in raising funding from local private sources to complement funding secured from local, state, and federal sources. Local Land Bank projects such as Turtleback Mountain, Watmough Bay, and the Wade Sundstrom purchase would not have been possible without the match funding provided through local philanthropic efforts. (Source: Personal communication with Lincoln Bormann, 4/7/2010.)

San Juan County Public Works

San Juan County Public Works' mandate is to maintain the county's public infrastructure, including recreation facilities such as boat ramps and docks, trails and paths along the right-of-way, and road ends. Trails largely have been funded with County Road funds with some additional support from state and federal grant programs.

San Juan Island Park and Recreation District

Known locally as "Island Rec," the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District was established in 1984 as a junior taxing district for San Juan Island, governed by an elected board of five commissioners. In 2009, voters approved the six-year renewal of San Juan Island Park and Recreation District's ten-cent operating levy, generating roughly \$226,000 to support the district's programs. Island Rec's district budget is supplemented by sponsorships, donations, program fees and reserve funds.

Orcas Park and Recreation District

San Juan County Parks Department operates the Orcas Island Recreation Program that is funded largely by fees, grants and donations. In 2009 county voters approved the creation of the Orcas Island Park and Recreation District. The voter-approved district is separate from the county-run recreation program. No funding was included in the voter-approved proposition creating the district, however, the newly elected five member park district board is developing a levy proposal for the voters in 2010. The county's goal is to have the park district assume the role of providing recreation and enrichment programs for Orcas Island.

Lopez Island and Shaw Island

While no park and recreation district exists on Lopez or Shaw Island, school districts and non-profit organizations are providing some recreation and enrichment programs in these communities. In addition to county operated parks on Lopez, County Parks works with the Chamber of Commerce and the Lopez Island Family Resource Center to operate and maintain the island's skate park and Village Park in the center of Lopez Village.

FUNDING FOR PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

State Programs

In many respects, the State of Washington is a model of consistency and commitment toward land conservation and recreation activities among the 50 states. Year in and year out, through difficult economic times and ever-changing priorities, state legislators have, since 1990, continued to approve between \$35 million and \$60 million toward conservation and recreation programs each year. And millions more from federal sources leverage this funding. In the most recent biennium, the legislature approved \$72 million for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) projects. In the 2007-9 biennium, the legislature approved \$100 million for WWRP—the largest single two-year investment in land conservation in the state's history.

Most of the programs that administer these funds encourage the use of matching funds, if possible, to stretch each program's funding base and maximize the goals of the program. Local government programs throughout the state aggressively seek state and federal matching funds available through a variety of conservation and recreation programs. State programs such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Salmon Recovery Board, the stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund program (in funded years), and the Division of Historical Resources Special Category Grants; and federal programs like the Endangered Species (Section 6), federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Transportation Enhancements program, to name a few, offer match-funding opportunities, though the dollar amounts available through these programs are usually quite limited.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

For most local governments seeking substantial funding and/or partnerships for parks, trails and recreation purposes, the programs that receive funds from the state's Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) are at the top of the list.

The Recreation and Conservation Office is a state agency that serves the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). RCO's primary land conservation program is the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), which was created by the Legislature in 1989. WWRP funding primarily comes from the sale of state general obligation bonds, with the legislature establishing funding levels on a biennial basis. The eight-member RCFB makes funding allocations for WWRP.

State and local agencies are eligible for funding through WWRP, although a fifty percent match is required from local agencies. According to state statute, WWRP funds must be distributed equally between Outdoor Recreation and Habitat Conservation. Grants are offered once every two years.

In 2009, the Governor's proposed budget reduced amounts in key land acquisition accounts such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation program, estuary, and salmon recovery funds. Specifically, in WWRP, the governor proposed \$50 million for the upcoming biennium—a substantial decrease from the last biennial capital appropriation of \$100 million for WWRP. The Washington legislature ultimately appropriated \$72 million in WWRP for the 2009-11 bienniums,

or \$36 million/year, and another \$10 million in other conservation programs, for a total of \$82 million.

The WWRP programs most relevant to San Juan County's Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan are listed below, along with total grant funding for 2009-2011 are listed below.

- Outdoor Recreation - \$26.1m for state and local parks, trails, and shorelines.
 - Local Parks - \$7.8m
WWRP Local Parks grants fund the acquisition, development, and renovation of neighborhood parks, ball fields, skate parks, swimming pools, and other recreation areas.
 - Trails - \$5.2m
WWRP Trails grants fund the acquisition and development of cycling, pedestrian, equestrian and cross-country ski trails. Projects may include trailheads, parking, restrooms, and picnic areas.
 - Water Access - \$4.3m
WWRP Water Access grants fund public access to beaches, lakes, and rivers for fishing, swimming and non-motorized boating. At least 75 percent of funds in this category are for acquisition, while 25 percent or less are for development.
- Habitat Conservation - \$26.1m for natural areas, urban and critical habitat and land stewardship.
 - Critical Habitat - \$10.5m
 - Natural Areas - \$7.8m
 - Urban Wildlife Habitat - \$5.2m
- Riparian Habitat Protection - \$9.7m for acquisition or restoration of marine and fresh-water habitat areas.
- Farmland Preservation - \$5.8m for conservation or restoration of working farms.

A summary of WWRP awards in San Juan County is provided below⁴:

2009 Funded Projects

StatewideInholdingsandAdjacentProperties2008 - State Parks - \$750,000

1990 - 2008 Funded Projects

BuckRecreationalPark - Orcas Island School Dist - \$300,000

CattlePointNRCA96 - Dept of Natural Resources - \$1,219,874

CattlePointNRCA96 - Dept of Natural Resources - \$1,219,874

DeadmanBay - San Juan County Land Bank - \$438,912

FishermanBaySpitAcquisition&Development - San Juan County Land Bank - \$1,177,825

Inholdings&AdjacentProperties-1996 - State Parks - \$550,000

Inholdings&AdjacentProperties-1998 - State Parks - \$500,000

⁴ Source: Washington Wildlife Recreation Coalition, http://wildliferecreation.org/wwrp-projects/counties/San%20Juan_county/

Inholdings&AdjacentProperties-2000 - State Parks - \$500,000
LimeKilnPoint-PH2Development - State Parks - \$179,912
LimeKilnPoint,Ph.1 - State Parks - \$775,997
LopezIslandCommunityTennisCourts - Lopez Island School Dist #144 - \$69,450
MoranStatePark-CascadeLake(Acquisition) - State Parks - \$699,840
PeregrineFalconHabitatPh.2 - Dept of Fish & Wildlife - \$566,788
SunkenPark - San Juan Island Park District - \$48,947

Additional Washington State Conservation and Recreation Grant Programs

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account - \$5m for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes. Grant funds also may be used to provide or improve public access to the waterfront state and local parks, trails and shorelines. For local agencies, at least 10 percent of the total project cost must come from a non-state, non-federal contribution. Since 1984, 255 ALEA grants totaling more than \$46 million have been awarded in 32 of Washington's 39 counties. In FY 2010 the state awarded San Juan County \$650,000 from this program for Judd Cove acquisition and restoration.
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program- \$200k to develop and renovate boating facilities targeting recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Grants also may be used for boater education. A 25 percent match is required for all projects. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has awarded more than \$3.7 million for 11 projects since the start of the program in 1998.
- Boating Facilities Program - \$4m to acquire, design, build, and renovate motorized boating facilities. Program funds projects that provide facilities for recreational, motorized boats less than 26 feet in length. Grant recipients must provide a 25 percent match. To date, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has awarded more than \$99 million for 589 projects in 37 of the state's 39 counties.
- Recreational Trails Program - \$1.8m to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience. Local agencies, special purpose districts, tribes, and non-profit organizations must provide 20 percent match for each project, and at least 10 percent of the total project cost must be from a non-state, non-federal contribution.

Other State Funding Programs

- Trust Land Transfer Program - transfers school trust lands suitable for natural or wildlife areas, parks, outdoor recreation, or open space to appropriate ownership while providing funding to schools equal to the timber or lease value of the transferred land.
- The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) was created in 1999 by the state legislature to grant funds to protect or restore salmon habitat and assist related activities and receives funding from the state and federal governments. The SRFB administers two grant programs, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP). For Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants cities, counties, non-profits, private landowners working on their own land, conservation districts, tribes,

special purpose districts and regional fisheries enhancement groups are eligible applicants and 15 percent matching funds are required. State agencies may apply but must have a local partner. The FFFPP is directed at small forest land owners who harvest from their own land and meet eligibility as described in Section 11 of SSHB 1095 and match is determined by cost estimate (see RCO requirements). The SRFB grant program is coordinated by a local lead entity and other regional organizations.

In San Juan County, SRFB provided funding for acquisition (\$465,000) of the Meng parcel at Watmough Bay on Lopez Island, and \$200,000 for a conservation easement along Cascade Creek on Orcas Island.⁵

Federal Programs

All programs discussed in this section are administered by federal agencies but vary in how funds are delivered for on-the-ground conservation projects. For example, some of these program funds are directed to the states, which in turn decide what projects to fund, while other program funds are granted by a federal agency through a competitive process. In still other cases, Congress may “earmark” funds for individual projects. The descriptions provided below are meant to provide a broad overview of funding sources. TPL can provide additional information on program rules and accessibility.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

U.S. Department of the Interior (varies by agency)

Created in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is the largest source of federal money for park, wildlife, and open space land acquisition. Specifically, LWCF provides funding to assist in the acquiring, preserving, developing, and ensuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources, including but not limited to open space, parks, trails, wildlife lands, and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active participation. The program’s funding comes primarily from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts, with an authorized expenditure of \$900 million each year. Under this program, a portion of the money is intended to go to federal land purchases and a portion to the states as matching grants for land protection projects.

LWCF – Stateside

(National Park Service through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office)
<http://www.rco.wa.gov/rcfb/grants/lwcf.htm>

The stateside LWCF program provides a 50-percent match to states for planning, developing, and acquiring land and water areas for natural resource protection and recreation enhancement. Funds are distributed to states based on population and need. Once the funds are distributed to the states, it is up to each state to choose the projects, though the National Park Service has final approval. Eligible grant recipients include municipal subdivisions, state agencies, and tribal governments, each of whom must provide at least 50 percent matching funds from nonfederal sources in either cash or in-kind contributions and a detailed plan for the proposed project. Annual appropriations to the fund have ranged from a high of \$369 million in 1979 to four years of zero funding between 1996 and 1999. Slightly under \$27 million was provided for the program in 2009.

In Washington, the program is administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office, which anticipates \$1 million in funding for the biennium. An applicant must submit a plan including goals and objectives, inventory, and a description of the public involvement process used. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) must accept the plan at least three months before the meeting in which the applicant's project is first considered for funding. Applications are usually due in the spring and are evaluated in a competitive process by an advisory committee. Applications are evaluated based on the technical merits of the project, public/private partnerships, and how the project addresses the identified needs and priorities of Washington's statewide comprehensive plan (also called the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or SCORP). The advisory committee submits a ranked list to the RCFB for approval.

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson Act)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://federalasst.fws.gov/wr/fawr.html>

Implemented in 1938, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, or more commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides funding from the Department of the Interior for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research, and the distribution of information produced by the projects. Funds are derived from an 11-percent excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment and a 10-percent tax on handguns. Funds are apportioned to appropriate state agencies on a formula based on the total area of the state and the number of licensed hunters in the state. Each state wildlife agency determines the best use of their apportioned funds and grants awards to projects based on these priorities. Grants can be awarded for wildlife management, to conduct habitat research, population studies and surveys, or hunter education programs, as well as to acquire lands for both wildlife and public access.

The program is a cost-reimbursement program in which the state applies for repayment of up to 75 percent of approved project expenses. The state must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from nonfederal sources.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Keystone) Initiative Grants & Special Grants Programs

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs.cfm>

In 1984, Congress created the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to benefit the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitat on which they depend by attracting diverse investments to conservation and encouraging locally supported stewardship on private and public lands. Through their Keystone Initiatives Grant Program, NFWF funds projects to conserve and restore bird, fish, and wildlife habitats. The Foundation awards matching grants to projects that address priority actions laid out by their strategic plan, work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests, leverage funding, serve multiple objectives, involve strong partnerships, and fit into a larger ecosystem approach to conservation. The most successful applications display the long-term environmental benefits of a project that yield high-quality conservation returns.

Eligible grantees include federal, tribal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofit conservation organizations. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$300,000 and typically require a 2:1 nonfederal match. Project proposals are received on a year-round, revolving basis with two decision cycles per year.

In addition to the Keystone Initiative matching grants, the Foundation administers a variety of special grant programs with specific conservation objectives, programmatic guidelines, and timelines. (See the Foundation's website for more information on these numerous grant opportunities or call NFWF's Western Partnership Office at (503) 417-8700.)

State Wildlife Grants

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>

Created by Congress in 2001, the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program is a matching grant program available to every state in support of cost-effective, on-the-ground conservation efforts aimed at restoring or maintaining populations of native species before listing under the Endangered Species Act is required. In order to maximize the effectiveness of this program, Congress requires each state to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for the conservation of the state's full array of wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend. These plans identify species and habitats of greatest conservation need and outline the steps necessary to keep them from becoming endangered. The SWG program provides matching funds used to implement the conservation recommendations outlined in these state wildlife action plans.

Funds appropriated under the SWG program are allocated to every state according to a formula based on a state's size and population. Each state then determines the best use of their grant funds with the understanding that the money must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within a State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan/Strategy. These funds may also be used to update, revise, or modify a State's Strategy. Each state has its own process for the prioritization and distribution of these funds. Since its inception in 2001, Washington has received almost \$11 million in matching funds from this program.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtml>

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was passed in 1989 to provide matching grants for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wetland ecosystems for the benefit of waterfowl and other wetland dependent migratory species. Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, grants are available to nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, tribes, and private individuals in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Two types of grants are awarded; small grants for up to \$75,000 and standard grants for up to \$1 million. There is a 1:1 non-federal match requirement for each grant although the average match of successful proposals is over 2:1.

In December 2002, Congress reauthorized the Act and expanded its scope to include the conservation of all habitats and birds associated with wetlands ecosystems. Congress also increased the appropriation authorization of the grant program \$75 million. The Congressional appropriation to fund the Act's Grants Program in FY 2010 is \$47,647,000. Additional program funding is expected to bring the total funding available to approximately \$89 million in FY 2010.

Since 1990, over 4,000 partners have been involved in over 1,940 NAWCA standard and small grant projects, affecting 25.5 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across the continent.

In Washington, the 34 approved projects (either individually or as part of a multistate project) have received \$30.2 million in Act grants to date.

Transportation Enhancements

U.S. Department of Transportation

www.enhancements.org

<http://wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/GRANTS/ENHANCE.HTM>

The federal Surface Transportation Program provides states with funding for highway projects. States are allocated funds based on a combination of population, transportation systems, miles of roads, and other factors. Each state must reserve at least 10 percent of its Surface Transportation Program dollars for transportation enhancement (TE) activities. These enhancement projects include historic preservation, rails-to-trails programs, easement and land acquisition, transportation museums, water pollution mitigation, wildlife connectivity, and scenic beautification. All projects must be related, in some way, to transportation.

In each state, TE projects are selected through a competitive process. Applications are submitted by local government entities, often in partnership with nonprofit organizations. The federal government provides 80 percent of the funds and the municipalities need to contribute a 20-percent match.

In Washington, each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), lead county agency, or Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) establishes its own criteria and selects projects up to the amount of TE funds sub-allocated to the region. Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) statewide project selection criteria are used as a basis for regional selection procedures. Additionally, each MPO and RTPO submits its regionally selected list, plus up to five additional local project proposals not funded with regional TE funds, to WSDOT for competition in a statewide selection process. A statewide TE Selection Committee, consisting of representatives from WSDOT; cities; counties; Indian Nations; and pedestrian, bicycle, trail, and historic/scenic groups reviews these projects, ranks them, and makes final selections for funding. The federal government gives final approval to the projects and distributes the funds directly to the municipalities or nonprofits on a reimbursement basis.

In 2007, San Juan County received a Transportation Enhancement grant of \$156,000 for Fisherman Bay Road pedestrian improvements.

National Scenic Byways

U.S. Department of Transportation

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/ScenicByways/call.htm>

The National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grant program, administered by Federal Highway Administration, provides funding for byway-related projects each year that will help Washington State meet its transportation goals. FHWA asks for WSDOT's ranking of the grant applications. However, FHWA may choose to fund any applications that are submitted to them. All projects must be within two miles of a designated Scenic and Recreational Highway.

National Scenic Byway (NSB) grants are available on an annual basis. Funding levels for this program have averaged about \$30 million in recent years. Traditionally, Washington funds about eight projects each year. Transportation Enhancement grants are another funding source to which scenic byway groups, and others, may apply. Projects may include improvements to a scenic byway that will improve access for the purpose of recreation including water-related recreation and to

protect scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, natural, and archeological resources in an area adjacent to a scenic byway.

The San Juan Islands Scenic Byway (SJISB) is Washington's first marine route. Designated in 2009, the byway consists of a 30-mile marine route and an 85-mile land route. It begins at the Anacortes ferry dock and travels through the San Juan Islands and around the islands of San Juan and Orcas.

The SJISB has received several federal grants through the NSB program for implementation and marketing, including \$154,000 in 2009 to develop a corridor management plan (CMP), which is slated for completion in fall 2010. A CMP identifies strategies for stewardship, protection, and enhancement of the byway's unique qualities, as well as actions for promoting the byway and improving visitor experience.

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/welcome.html>

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) funds pass-through grants to states and local governments for fee or easement acquisition in a state's coastal zone, and/or as provided for in a state's coastal conservation plan. CELCP was created in order to "protect those coastal and estuarine areas with significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values, or those that are threatened by conversion from their natural state to other uses," and lands purchased through this program must generally be maintained in or restored to their natural state. Public access is a general requirement, and the program requires a 1:1 non-federal match, which can be in many forms, including restoration and land-value donation. CELCP is administered through NOAA. The funding and project selection process begins with each participating state soliciting project proposals, and picking no more than three to submit to the national process. NOAA will then create a national ranking, with the top projects receiving funding via the annual appropriations process.

CELCP was funded at approximately \$20 million in FY10, \$8 million in FY08 and \$21 million in FY07.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/coastal/?viewPage=home>

Established by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act of 1990, the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program is a matching grant program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire, restore, and enhance the wetland ecosystems of coastal states and territories. Projects in states bordering the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and Great Lakes are eligible for funding. Projects are given priority if consistent with the criteria and considerations outlined in the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan; are located in states with dedicated funding programs to acquire coastal wetlands and open spaces; are located in maritime forests on barrier islands; benefit endangered species; encourage cooperative efforts among diverse partnerships; and benefit other ongoing conservation efforts.

To date, an estimated \$220 million in grant funding has been awarded to 25 coastal states and one U.S. territory to acquire, protect, or restore almost 258,000 acres of coastal wetland ecosystems across the country.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>

Grants offered through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (authorized under section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) support participation in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed, and listed species.

“Non-traditional” Section 6 grants consist of three grant programs established in 2001 under the federal Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF). The three grant programs are: 1) Recovery Land Acquisition grants, 2) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition (HCP) grants, and 3) Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants.

These grant programs are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and provide funding to states for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands. A state must have a cooperative agreement with the USFWS under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act to be eligible to receive funds under the CESCF. In Washington State, the non-traditional Section 6 grants are administered by the USFWS in conjunction with the state Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Natural Resources (DNR).

In 2007 and 2009, the Washington DNR was awarded a total of \$1.75 million from US Fish and Wildlife Section 6 funds for acquisition of properties with golden paintbrush. San Juan County has not been able to utilize these funds due to insufficient funds to make successful offers for properties in the project area.⁶

⁶ ⁶ Personal communication with Lincoln Bormann, 4/7/2010.

Local Financing Options

Most funding for parks and land conservation in America comes from local governments. Across the country between 1998-2005 there was a total of \$24 billion (annual average of \$3 billion) spent on land conservation at the local, state and federal levels of government. Sixty-seven percent of the total dollars spent comes from local governments, twenty-eight percent comes from state governments and only four percent is derived from the federal government.⁷ Therefore, a dedicated source of local revenue often serves as the key to long-range land conservation and planning for open space protection. A stable funding source also provides local matching funds to leverage grant money offered by the state and federal programs.

Public Land Conservation Funding in the United States (1998 – 2005)⁸

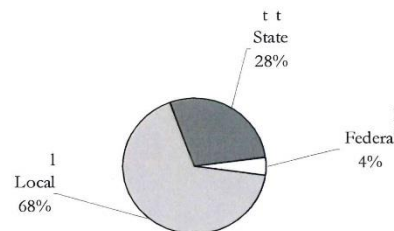
Public Land Conservation Funding in the United States
(1998 - 2005)

	Total	Annual Avg.	Share
Local	\$16 billion	\$2 billion	68%
State	\$6.75 billion	\$844m	28%
Federal	\$1.02 billion	\$128m	4%
Total	\$23.77 billion	\$2.97 billion	

State & federal = actual spending

Local = spending authorizations

Source: TPL Conservation Almanac, TPL LandVote Database



Choosing a Funding Strategy

Generally, there are three primary types of revenue sources available to local governments to pay for parks and land conservation: discretionary annual spending, creation of dedicated funding streams, and debt financing. The financing options utilized by a community will depend on a variety of factors such as taxing capacity, budgetary resources, voter preferences, and political will.

Significant, dedicated funding generally comes from broad-based taxes and/or the issuance of bonded indebtedness, which often require the approval of voters. In TPL's experience, local governments that create funding via the legislative process provide substantially less funding than those that create funding through ballot measures. As elected officials go through the process of making critical budgetary decisions, funding for land conservation often lags behind other public purposes, and frequently less than what voters would support. It is understandably often difficult to raise taxes without an indisputable public mandate for the intended purpose.

The power of conservation finance ballot measures is they provide a tangible means to implement a local government's vision. With their own funding, local governments are better positioned to secure scarce funding from state or federal governments or private philanthropic partners. Having a predictable funding source empowers the city or county to establish long-term conservation

⁷ Figures are derived from TPL's LandVote and Conservation Almanac databases.

⁸ Ibid.

priorities that protect the most valuable resources, are geographically distributed, and otherwise meet important community goals and values.

Nationwide, a range of public financing options has been utilized by local jurisdictions to fund parks and open space, including general obligation bonds, the local sales tax, and the property tax. Less frequently used mechanisms have included special assessment districts, real estate transfer taxes, impact fees, and income taxes. The ability of local governments to establish dedicated funding sources depends upon state enabling authority. In Washington, local government funding options for land conservation have primarily taken the form of budget appropriations, property taxes, general obligation bonds backed by property taxes, sales tax, and less frequently, impact fees and the real estate transfer tax. Many communities also have had success in leveraging local sources with funds from Washington's state conservation programs and some federal programs.

Overall, voter support of local conservation finance measures in Washington has been mixed. Roughly 47 percent of measures (17 of 36) on the ballot between 1998 and 2009 were approved, though the record has improved in recent years with 78 percent of measures (7 of 9) passing since 2006. Success at the ballot is hampered somewhat in the state by the high approval threshold (60 percent of the vote) required for local bond measures. TPL and its affiliate The Conservation Campaign⁹ have supported 16 local finance measures in Washington, 11 of which were approved.

Finally, conservation finance measures are not right for every local government or they might not be the right approach at the moment. Budget appropriations and other revenue sources that can be implemented through the legislative process may well serve as short-term funding options while conservation proponents develop a strategy and cultivate broad support for longer-term finance options. Some of the specific finance options available in San Juan County are described below.

County Revenue Options

Significant, dedicated funding generally comes from broad-based taxes and/or the issuance of bonded indebtedness. The following options present opportunities for financing parks, trails, and land conservation in San Juan County:

Property Tax. In 2009, the county asked voters to approve an increase of 0.60336 per \$1,000 to the property tax levy for tax years 2010 – 2015. The tax, which was approved with 57 percent voter support, will be used to keep parks open, reinstate public health programs, and support senior services and 4-H programs. However, despite the additional tax revenue of \$960,000 from the levy lid lift, the county is expected to have less revenue and provide fewer services than it did in 2008.

Property tax rates in San Juan County are the lowest in the state. In 2008 the state average property tax rate was \$9.72 per \$1,000. In San Juan County, the rate was \$5.52. Conversely, average home prices are the highest in the state which results in relatively large tax bills for many homeowners in the county. Also, a significant portion of county land is enrolled in open space programs resulting in some shift of tax burden to other landowners. Arguably, the open space properties provide a public benefit to the county residents and usually requires fewer public services at taxpayer expense.

⁹ The Conservation Campaign (TCC) is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization affiliated with TPL. TCC mobilizes public support for ballot measures and legislation that create public funds to protect land and water resources.

San Juan County may ask voters to increase the regular county property tax via a levy lid lift, which requires majority approval of voters at a general or special election. For example, a 0.1 percent increase in the property tax levy would generate just under \$800,000 annually at a cost of \$43 per year to the average homeowner in the county.

Estimated Revenue & Costs of Property Tax Increase			
Tax Rate Increase	Assessed Valuation	Annual Revenue	Cost / Avg. House
0.0295	\$ 7,976,669,632	\$235,312	\$13
0.10	\$ 7,976,669,632	\$797,667	\$43
0.15	\$ 7,976,669,632	\$1,196,500	\$64
0.20	\$ 7,976,669,632	\$1,595,334	\$86

Sources: Total county assessed value, San Juan County Assessor's Office; median home price \$427,500, Q4 2009, Washington Ctr for Real Estate, WSU

Conservation Futures Property Tax. San Juan County also may request a levy lift for the Conservation Futures Tax to the maximum rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 of assessed value (or \$6.25 per \$100,000 value). The county currently levies this tax at 0.0331.¹⁰ Revenues generated from the Conservation Futures Tax may be expended for the acquisition of development rights and other real property rights and interests of any open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timberland and the operation and maintenance of such lands. Implementing this tax at the full \$0.0625 levy (an increase of 0.0295) would generate roughly \$235,000 annually and cost the average homeowner \$13 per year. See the chart on the previous page for more detail.

Bonding. San Juan County could issue general obligation bonds and levy property taxes to pay the debt service on the bonds.¹¹ For unlimited tax general obligation bonds (G.O.), 60 percent of the electorate must approve issuance of general obligation bonds, which must be validated by a voter turnout of at least 40 percent of those who voted in the last general election. The county could also issue revenue bonds; however a revenue source must be identified to pay the debt service on these bonds. A \$10 million general obligation bond, payable over 20 years, would cost the average homeowner approximately \$43 annually.

San Juan County historically has carried relatively little debt and currently has no voted general obligation debt outstanding. As such it has ample capacity under statutory debt limits to issue bonds for parks and open space.

Bond Financing Costs for San Juan County			
20-year Bond Issues at 5.0% Interest Rate			
Assessed Value = \$7.9 billion			
Bond Issue Size	Annual Debt Svce	Tax Rate Increase	Cost/ Year/ \$428K House
\$5,000,000	\$401,213	0.05	\$22
\$10,000,000	\$802,426	0.10	\$43
\$20,000,000	\$1,604,852	0.20	\$86
\$30,000,000	\$2,407,278	0.30	\$129

Sources: Total county assessed value, San Juan County Assessor's Office; median home price \$427,500, Q4 2009, Washington Ctr for Real Estate, WSU

Sales and Use Tax. San Juan

County currently levies the maximum one percent county sales and use tax.¹² Three other optional sales taxes are levied in the county as follows: 0.1 percent for mental health and 0.1 percent for criminal justice, and 0.1 percent for detention purposes. San Juan County does not have any

¹⁰ The county originally levied the conservation futures tax at the maximum levy allowed, but the "effective" rate has been lowered as a result of statutory revenue limitations (i.e. compressed). The county could use the levy-lid-lift process to increase the tax rate back to the maximum (or to some other increased amount) for a period of up to six years. Source: County Assessor & WA DOR.

¹¹ State law limits bonded debt to 2.5 percent of assessed value of taxable property in the county for general purposes.¹¹ This limit applies to voted (unlimited) and non-voted debt (limited). Of this limit, the Board of County Commissioners may, by resolution, authorize the issuance of limited tax general obligation bonds in an amount up to 1.5 percent of assessed value of taxable property without the vote of the people. Because limited tax general obligation bonds are payable from general government revenues which reduces the amount available for current operating expenditures and the financial flexibility of the Board of County Commissioners, limited tax general obligation bonds are usually used only for the most pressing capital needs.

¹² Two increases to the sales tax were imposed in 2007, raising the rate by 3/10ths of 1 percent.

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Appendix D. Extended County Facility Inventory

APPENDIX D. EXTENDED COUNTY FACILITY INVENTORY

This inventory includes the majority of county-owned parks, trails, and natural areas on the four ferry-served islands of San Juan, Shaw, Lopez, and Orcas. Sites are listed alphabetically, noting island location, classification, and the county department charged with operating the facility.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Alderman Property	San Juan	Conservation Buyer Program	Land Bank	This ten-acre parcel is located in the floor of the San Juan Valley fronting Bailer Hill Road. The Land Bank purchased the property as part of its goal to preserve farmland in San Juan Valley. This property will likely be resold at some future date encumbered by a conservation easement to protect its agricultural and open space value.
American Camp Trail	San Juan	Trail	Land Bank and Public Works	The trail runs from Friday Harbor to the American Camp unit of the SJI National Historical Park. It extends over property owned by the Port of Friday Harbor, on several roadways and through private properties via trail easements or licenses before reaching the Land Bank's Frazer Homestead Preserve and continuing south to the National Park. The Land Bank is still working to secure easements and licenses from several property owners. The entire corridor stretches more than 5.5 miles
Anderson Property	San Juan	Conservation Buyer Program	Land Bank	The 2003 purchase this 40-acre property, located west of Cattle Point Road and south of False Bay Road, serves to protect part of the gateway into The American Camp unit of the SJI National Historical Park. It includes woodlands, meadows and wetlands. The property may be resold with a conservation easement to limit development in the view corridor.
Armadale A Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Located on the north end of the island, access to this road end is via White Point Road; the road end is located on the north side of the third parcel to the north of Armadale B. The road ends several hundred yards before water's edge and a walking path to water is undeveloped but clear of trees. There is currently no parking, but there is potential to develop two parking spaces while maintaining the walking path.
Armadale B Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This road end is located at the intersection of Bazalgette Point Drive and Armadale Road near Armadale A road end. Access is via White Point Road. The road ends several hundred yards before water's edge. The area is wooded with a 20-foot wide rock bank. There is potential to develop two parking spaces and walking trail to water.
Barnacle Lane Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This road end is located at the southern tip on the eastern side of the island. The road ends 100 feet before the water's edge at the end of a narrow dirt road. The site provides a good view of Obstruction Island. Currently, there is no turnaround or parking at the site. The site is near the Obstruction Pass Marine Facility

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Beaverton Marsh Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Open pasture, rows of baled hay and family memories closely link this 135-acre property to the agricultural heritage of the island. Also, with nearly a mile of frontage on Roche Harbor Road, this site has outstanding scenic value as one of the gateways into the Town of Friday Harbor. The property includes a significant portion of one of the most expansive wetland systems in the county, with nearly the entire remainder protected by conservation easement (see below). Wetlands provide vital ecological functions including maintaining water quality and hosting waterfowl and wildlife. Rare Eurasian widgeons, Trumpeter swans, hooded mergansers and bufflehead ducks have all been residents.
Beaverton Marsh Conservation Area (Taylor, SJPT, and Buck properties)	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This conservation easement extends over three ownerships and rough 210 acres. The easement was made possible with funding from the North American Wetland Conservation Act, secured in partnership with Ducks Unlimited.
Blackie Brady Park	Lopez	Pocket Park	County Parks and Public Works	This park has been occasionally identified as Hughes Bay Park. According to a historical marker at the park, this site is called “Blackie Brady Memorial Beach in honor of Floyd “Blackie” Brady whose dedicated research and tenacious spirit resulted in public access to this beautiful beach.” The cove offers a secluded beach adjacent to private property. There is one picnic table, a wooden staircase, and a gravel turnaround at the top of the bluff. Public use issues include: the lack of directional signage to the park, and the disrepair of the wooden steps that descend to the water’s edge due to storm damage.
Blanchard Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This road end extends to the water, but the site is not yet marked with shore access signage.
Blind Bay Road End	Shaw	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Located on the north side of the island, Blind Bay Road ends at the ferry dock. A small private beach located adjacent to the ferry dock was recently purchased by Shaw Landing Association to protect it from development. A right-of-way exists on the rocks south of the Washington State Ferries dock. There are WSF public restrooms nearby.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Bluebells Springs Property	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This conservation easement, acquired through donation, protects an important stretch of scenic shoreline on the north shore of Orcas Island. The 66-acre property is a mixture of forest and meadow. The Twin Lakes seasonal outfall passes through the middle of the property and empties into the Strait of Georgia. Approximately 1,800 feet of shoreline is visible from the waters of the Strait and some of the outer islands. This easement reduces development from 13 lots to five.
Buck Bay West Property	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This small but precious .41-acre property dramatically affects the maritime setting of Buck Bay and the views from Pt Lawrence Road in Olga. Buck Bay is an active estuary, rich with marine life. The Land Bank acquired an easement from The SJ Preservation Trust as part of an ongoing partnership to protect the ecological and scenic marine values of Buck Bay. The property features steeply sloping forest, 343 feet of high bank waterfront, and extensive tidelands. The conservation easement extinguishes all development potential and protects the land as forever wild.
Buckhorn Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Buckhorn Road located off Terrill Beach Road at the north end of the island. The road end is 30 feet wide. The road end provides a beautiful view of the water and shoreline, with medium bank shoreline accessible via step.
Cascade Creek Property (Dickinson)	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank purchased this 24-acre yet-to-be-named property in 2016 with a state Salmon Recovery grant. The lower 300-feet of the Creek host spawning Coho, and chum salmon as well as sea-run coastal cutthroat trout. Juvenile Chinook are also present. The upper portion of the site features a dramatic canyon and mature forest. The Land Bank will be working to provided public access in the near future, while ensuring that the riparian areas and salmon in the creek remain undisturbed.
Cady Mountain Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 135-acre property features outstanding views, important Garry oak habitat, which the Land Bank has been actively restoring, mature Douglas-fir forest and open wildflower meadows. The Land Bank continues to work toward providing public access to this site.
Cameron Lane Road End	San Juan	Road End	Public Works	The county road end stops short of the water in front at a private residence. The site provides a nice view of bird nesting area on one of the small outer islands.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Cape Saint Mary Road End	Lopez	Shore Access	Public Works	Cape Saint Mary Rd ends leaving approximately 0.5 miles undeveloped ROW to the shoreline. This location is dense forest, but could provide future access to a rocky shoreline. The ROW is adjacent to BLM land.
Cayou Valley Property	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Cayou Valley Lagoon is a fertile tidal inlet where blue heron and osprey frequently fish and red-tailed hawks breed. The Land Bank's conservation easement on 109 of Bob and Meg Connor's 131 acres, protects this wildlife habitat, and creates a wildlife corridor to an upland freshwater marsh known as the Frank Richardson Preserve. The land is managed to sustain and enhance wildlife habitat such as perching and nesting trees, open fields, brush areas and woodlands.
Carter Beach Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This undeveloped shore access is located at the end of Carter Beach Road off of Turn Point Road.. The road end leads to grassy area. The site is low bank and provides a good launching point for kayaks headed to Turn Island.
Clapp Property	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Clapp conservation easement provides an opportunity to substantially reduce density of an important stretch of scenic West Sound shoreline and to preserve natural features on this nearly 160-acre property. The easement permits 16 residences, as opposed to 58 that would be feasible under the current comprehensive plan. Ten potential shoreline lots will be limited to five, including the existing house.
Coffelt Farm Preserve	Orcas	Agricultural Preserve	Land Bank	Coffelt Farm is one of the county's most iconic agricultural landmark properties. Extending over 180 acres and nestled into Crow Valley between two of Orcas Island's major roads, it is highly visible. The Land Bank purchased this property outright to ensure agricultural activities continue into the foreseeable future.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Cole Property	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This 245-acre property is divided into a 193-acre farm and a 52-acre parcel of woodland waterfront on Aleck Bay. The gently rolling farmland stretches along Aleck Bay Road on the south end of Lopez Island. A well-known long-time local farmer, Howard Cole protected the farm with a conservation easement that allows for continued agricultural use of the property but limits the density to a maximum of two house sites. The waterfront lot includes 1,555 feet of rocky shoreline and a protected beach in Aleck Bay. The property provides habitat for the brittle prickly pear cactus, a species of local concern. Howard Cole donated nearly all of the value of the conservation easement on the shoreline piece.
Cormorant Bay Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This road end is located on the southwest side of the island on Cormorant Bay at the south end of President Channel. Approximately 1.7 miles of unpaved road leads to the low bank shore acces and beach at water's edge. A small turnaround exists just before road end, with parking for up to three cars.
Crescent Beach Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Waterfront access on Orcas is a high priority for local residents. Crescent Beach, with over 2,100 feet of shoreline and low bank beach front and more than 130-acres is a critical resource. A .6 mile trail through mixed forest and meadow connects from Crescent Beach Road to Mt. Baker Road. Ship Bay is an important ecological area featuring rich eelgrass beds and ideal habitat for marine waterfowl and invertebrates.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Deadman Bay Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This property on the west side of San Juan Island provides public access to 1,600 feet of shoreline just south of Limekiln Point State Park. Visitors may walk along the gravel beach, watch for whales and other marine life from the shore overlooking Haro Strait. The property offers panoramic views across Puget Sound to Vancouver Island, the Olympic Mountains and north to the State Park and beyond.
Deer Harbor Loop Trail	Orcas	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	- description pending -??
Deer Harbor Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 2-acre property with 650 feet of low-bank marine shoreline and associated tidelands, is located just north of the Deer Harbor hamlet. Mixed forest and an area of open meadow with a walking path provides public access to the shoreline and views across the harbor to the Wasp Islands. A variety of birds utilize this property, including bald eagles, osprey, kingfishers and hummingbirds. The Land Bank's restoration efforts at this site have improved important shoreline processes and habitat function to benefit forage fish essential to salmon.
Deer Harbor Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This road end is located in the community of Deer Harbor at the south end of the western side of the island. At the intersection of Jack 'n Jill Lane and Deer Harbor Road. The area is currently used for parallel parking, but has no access to the beach. There is potential for a viewing deck, and potentially stairs, that extend from the road end to the high-bank waterfront area.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Diamond Hill Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	A prominent landscape feature viewed from Dolphin Bay Road and the waters of East Sound and Harney Channel, Diamond Hill rises to over 600 feet. The Land Bank purchase of 40 acres of mature forest and open meadows near the summit protects the significant ecological and scenic values of the property. In 2012 and 2014, neighbors generously donated an additional 12 acres to the Preserve. Special features of this diverse and secluded property include grassy balds on the steep west-facing slopes; a quiet wetland that supports breeding amphibians; and strong stands Douglas-fir trees.
Doe Bay Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	On the east side of Orcas, the road ends in Doe Bay Resort. There is a public access sign at the entrance to resort and two signs at the road end indicate public shoreline. The site is high bank,. Two picnic tables,a viewing bench, and parking area is used by resort visitors and the public.
Eastsound Madrona Point Dock	Orcas	Marine Facility	Public Works	Madrona Point is a peninsula extending into South Sound just east of the community of Eastsound and is within easy walking distance. The Eastsound Madrona Point Dock is located on this peninsula adjacent to Madrona Point , which is owned by the Lummi Nation. A 150-foot fixed dockleads to a 40-ft seasonal floating dock. The floating dock is removed November 1 through April 1.. Public Works has identified a small beach adjacent to the dock but there is no access to this beach. Although there may be space available for developing parking, there are no other amenities.
Edwards Point Property	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This conservation easement was a gift to the Land Bank from Larry Pentz. Abutting Westside Scenic Preserve to the south, this easement further protects a significant stretch of shoreline on San Juan Island's magnificent west side. The 8.29 acres extends along 1,300 feet of shoreline and includes a rocky point and a small gravel beach. Apart from a small guesthouse in the southern wooded area, no additional residences will be permitted on this land.
Enchanted Forest Road Trail	Orcas	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	This 0.2 miles crushed surface trail extends westward from the intersection with Lovers Lane. The 5-ft wide trail is separated from the road and serves the residential communities to the west.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Enchanted Forest Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This road end is located on the northwest shore of Orcas at President Channel. The chip seal road ends at a low bank beach . The County owns the tidelands that extend from the road end. The road end is adjacent to West Beach Resort. There is no parking or turnaround. it is a good launching point for kayaks.
Entrance Mountain Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Together with the Diamond Hill Preserve, Entrance Mountain stands sentinel above the mouth of the East Sound fjord. Its rocky balds, steep cliffs and closed forested areas provide a sense of how the area looked when people first arrived following the last ice age. Two parcels of this property were purchased in 1996. The third connecting parcel was bequeathed to the Land Bank by the Halpenny Trust in 2008.
False Bay Creek Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank purchased 39 acres of pasture land along False Bay Creek, located at the intersection of Bailer Hill Road and False Bay Drive in 2008. False Bay Creek has high potential to support native fish, such as cutthroat trout or salmon. The agricultural use that adjoins the creek is another important aspect of the property.
False Bay Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access	Public Works	The Shore Access site consists of an unimproved path to the University of Washington Biological Preserve and False Bay Tidelands.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
First Street Road End (East Street Road End)	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This road end is located in the community of Olga on the south end of the eastern portion of the island. Access is labeled “Ohlert Lane” and extends to the water. There is a significant hill with a public stairway and trail to the small pocket beach.
Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Spit	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 29-acre property includes open meadows, woodlands, wetlands, approximately 1 mile of shoreline and an exquisite sandy spit marking the entrance to Fisherman Bay. The scenic setting is visible from numerous locations and travel ways, including Lopez Village, San Juan Channel and Fisherman Bay.
Fisherman Bay Preserve: The Tombolo	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This long, low tombolo was acquired for its extraordinary ecological, scenic and public access values. This natural geologic feature (connecting an island to another island) acts as a buffer between San Juan Channel and Fisherman Bay. The tombolo and its surrounding tidal flats and shoreline provide habitat for numerous wildlife, waterfowl and marine organisms.
Fisherman Bay Preserve: Weeks Wetland	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The 24-acre Weeks Wetland property with its unique saltwater wetland is adjacent to Lopez Village on Fisherman Bay. A rustic trail provides access to an observation deck overlooking the wetland. Visitors may discover the abundance of migratory birds and wetland plants, learn about life in the wetlands from interpretive signs, and watch boats enter and exit Fisherman Bay. Property acquisition and trail construction were funded in-part by a matching grant from the State Department of Natural Resources.
Fisherman's Bay Road	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	This 0.5-mile pervious concrete path was constructed in 2009 with grant funds. The 5-ft wide path extends from Milagra Lane southward nearly to the intersection with Hummel Lake Road.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Fowlers Pond Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This Orcas Island landmark is a favorite scenic vista for travelers on both the Orcas and Crow Valley Roads. The property's nearly 50 acres includes gently sloping grassy meadows, woodlands and two scenic ponds. Preserved together, these habitats provide a biologically rich environment. Some of the wildlife residents include common snipes, coots, rails and wood ducks, pacific chorus frogs, red-legged frogs, and rough skin newts. Guided by public opinion, access to this wildlife preserve is by permission only. In 2006, acquisition of the adjacent 9 forested hilltop acres known as 'Fowler's Knob' expanded the Preserve to its present size.
Fraser Homestead Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	In 2006, the Land Bank expanded protection of this important view corridor with the acquisition of approximately 68 acres located across the road, on the east side of Cattle Point Road. The property includes open agricultural lands and several Douglas-fir groves. It now connect to the American Camp Unit of the SJI National Historical Park.
Golithan Preserve Property	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Golithan Preserve on Buck Bay is a pristine example of forested shoreline habitat. The Preserve includes 143 feet of shoreline along the eastern shore of Buck Bay and a prominent forested point quite visible from Point Lawrence Road. Protection of this forever wild nature preserve was a partnership effort between The San Juan Preservation Trust, who holds fee title ownership, and the Land Bank, whose conservation easement adds an additional layer of protection.
Golf Course Trail	San Juan	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	Also known as the Minnie Mae Trail, this multi-use trail is surfaced with wood chips and is 8-ft wide. It serves as a safe short cut across two ends of Golf Course Road which have poor sight distance and no shoulders. This is a small section of the American Camp Trail

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Gudgell Property	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Wally and Susan Gudgell donated a conservation easement protecting 31 acres of the eastern flank of Turtleback Mountain to the Land Bank. The easement extinguishes four potential house sites from the property, limiting development to only two house sites. The property is steep-sloped, forested and includes a prominent rock knob that is visible from many locations along Crow Valley Road and Horseshoe Highway.
Halsey Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Halsey Road runs perpendicular to Jensen Bay Road in southeast San Juan Island. The road ends 150 feet from high bank above the water. The site is heavily wooded and does not currently provide water or view access.
Harris-Pressenda Property	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This property consists of 50.6 acres of open fields, some woodlands and over 1,400 feet of frontage on Fisherman Bay Road. New development in the open fields of the property would be very visible. Continued agricultural use will be encouraged. The conservation easement preserves the scenic character of the property and its value as agricultural land.
Helwig Property	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Hazel Helwig Trust donated a conservation easement on a dramatic 10.7-acre shoreline property on the southern end of Lopez Island. The property includes woodlands, pasture, an old orchard, a rocky headland covered by native grassland and 570 feet of shoreline on Aleck Bay. The easement includes building and siting restrictions designed to minimize future impacts to the scenic and open space values of the property. This gift enhances a network of conservation protection at the south end of Lopez Island.
Heritage Farm	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Land Bank purchased a conservation easement on this scenic 39-acre farm to preserve in perpetuity its rural character and the opportunities for future farming enterprises. Jim & Christina raise hay and pasture-fed turkeys and chickens on their farm. A stout red barn houses a team of draft horses that are used to do much of the agriculture work. This working farm with its open expanse of pasture is quite visible from Cattle Point Road.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Hoffman Cove Road End	Shaw	Shoreline Access	Public Works	The end of this road is the entrance to the University of Washington property on the south end of Shaw Island. The UW property is open to low impact recreational use – bird watching, beach combing, and hiking. Although this is a popular spot with islanders, there are no provisions for parking. The Shore Access is not developed to provide public access.
Hogback Mountain Preserve Conservation Easement	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Hogback Mountain project marks the first cooperative venture between the San Juan County Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust. The 50 acres protected by two conservation easements include a prominent bald meadow, second-growth forest and a stream adjacent to the eastern boundary of Moran State Park. The Preservation Trust owns the northern 30 acres. A conservation easement on this parcel prohibits any residential development but allows for public pedestrian access from the adjacent park. The southern 20 acres is owned by a private landowner. The Land Bank also holds a conservation easement on this property. The easement limits development to two residential lots, with restrictions on building size and location.
Howard Farm	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Driving south on Cattle Point Road, the view opens dramatically to reveal a pastoral landscape of hay and grazing fields, vegetable plots, ponds, and barns for sheltering animals and storing crops and equipment. In 2009, the Land Bank assembled the final piece of more than 175 contiguous protected acres in this spot and culminated a 15-year project. A conservation easement on the 27-acre Howard property ensures the land will remain open and available for agriculture.
Hummel Lake Preserve	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Located on the south end of Lopez Island's largest freshwater lake, this 80-acre Preserve includes 1,450 feet of lakefront shoreline, wetland, meadow, forest habitat and a rare peat bog. An ADA-accessible trail disappears into a small cedar grove, meanders through the forest and continues along the edge between the forest and meadow eventually winding up at the floating dock. The acquisition occurred in 2 separate transactions.
Hunt Property	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Acquired through donation, the first conservation easement gifted by the Hunts in 1995 protected 1.9 acres of woodland and shoreline at Cattle Pass. This stretch of shoreline is visible from Griffin Bay, Cattle Pass and the south shore of Lopez Island. A second gift of a conservation easement in 2002 protects an adjoining 1.5 acres that includes a salt marsh, a freshwater wetland and important habitat for fragile and unique native plants. The property is frequented by many species of birds, has numerous native wildflowers and the beach is regularly visited by marine mammals. The easement addresses the harvesting of native plants, introduction of non-native invasive plants, tree cutting, grazing and other activities. The goal of the easement is to preserve the property's native and natural values.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Hunter Bay Dock	Lopez	Marine Facility	Public Works	Hunter Bay Dock is located at the end of Crab Island Road on the east side of Lopez Island near Islandale Road. The county facility includes a boat ramp, dock and parking as well as beach and water access. There is a portable toilet facility.
Huntley Property	Waldron	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Land Bank purchased a conservation easement on this 34-acre property in 2016 with a salmon recovery grant. The easement limits develop to two possible units, within small structures areas and creates a 200-natural area buffer along the shoreline. The site has over 2,000 feet of undeveloped barrier beach and feeder bluffs facing Boundary Pass.
Jensen Bay Road End	San Juan	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This site is located off Cattle Point Road on the southeast side of San Juan Island. The road ends at a medium bank beach, but there is no beach access as wave action has eroded the path. The road end provides a beautiful view of Griffin Bay.
Johnson Property	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This 40-acre property abuts the prominent Iceberg Point on the south end of Lopez Island. Iceberg Point is part of the San Juan Island's National Monument and has significant shoreline and ecological features. The Johnson property stretches along the east side of the Monument property and includes 660 feet of shoreline on Outer Bay. The conservation easement protects the shoreline, open meadows and upland forest. One guest house may be constructed on the property within a proscribed building envelope.
Judd Cove Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Judd Cove Preserve is an exquisite jewel along the western shore of East Sound. Comprised of three parcels acquired by the Land Bank from 2000 – 2008, the 11-acre natural area encompasses a rich variety of habitats, including mature mixed forest, 355 feet of marine shoreline, freshwater wetlands, and extensive tidelands. The site is also the location of a partially restored 1880's lime kiln and quarry which help tell the story of the lime industry in the San Juans. The peaceful and picturesque setting of this sanctuary offers pedestrian shoreline access and special opportunities for wildlife watching.
Kjargaard Farm	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This 95-acre conservation easement protects fertile farmland in the Center Valley of Lopez Island. The land was first homesteaded as a farm in 1871 and remains in agricultural production to this day. A Farmland Protection grant from Washington State's Wildlife and Recreation Program made this conservation easement possible.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
King Sisters Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank purchased 60 acres of rolling pasture and woodlands from Maggie King and her sisters Phoebe, Mary Jean and Janet in 2005. The agricultural fields and scenic views long enjoyed by travelers along San Juan Valley Road have been owned by the King family since at least the 1930s. The property is currently leased to a local farmer for grazing and vegetable production.
Lee Farm	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This scenic farm and its open meadows and fields are bounded by three major county roads. The conservation easement protects the agricultural, scenic and open space values of the farm. With this conservation easement in place, the Land Bank has assisted with the preservation of the important agricultural value of the Central Valley.
Limekiln Preserve and Westside Lake	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This 174-acre property abuts Deadman Bay, surrounding Limekiln Point State Park to the east and stretches north along Westside Road. The Land Bank acquired this property because of its ecological, scenic and public access values. A dam impounds Westside Lake and controls the outflow of drainage into Deadman Bay. When the Land Bank purchased the Limekiln Preserve in 1997, it acquired approximately two-thirds of Westside Lake. Protection of the remainder of the lake and the drainage into Deadman Bay had been a priority for the Land Bank Commission. The acquisition of remainder of the ten-acre Westside Lake property three years later, secured complete ownership of the lake providing additional recreational access as well as habitat for waterfowl and other birds and wildlife.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Lopez Hill Preserve	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The 400-acre property known as “Lopez Hill” in the heart of Lopez Island is a unique forested area important for recreation, wildlife, and watershed protection. The DNR approved a 50-year lease to San Juan County for the property in 2009.
Lopez Village Road side Trails	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	A walking path on each side of Lopez Road was constructed in recent years with the installation of the storm drainage system. The paths extend westward from Fisherman Bay Road into the heart of Lopez Village. As well as other roadside paths in the village.
Old Post Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Located near the site of the old post office, this site provides a public staircase to the beach as well as ample parking.
Lower Argyle Lots	San Juan	Conservation Buyer Program	Land Bank	These undeveloped lots are located in the heart of the historic Lower Argyle Avenue Neighborhood in Friday Harbor. These properties were acquired to protect the historic integrity of the oldest residential neighborhood in the Town of Friday Harbor. The lots will be encumbered with historic preservation and conservation easements to restrict ensure future uses and development are compatible with historic and cultural integrity of the neighborhood and resold.
MacKaye Harbor	Lopez	Marine Facility	Public Works	Located on the southern end of Lopez island, MacKaye Harbor is accessed off of MacKaye Harbor Road via Norman Road. Currently this facility offers a chip seal boat ramp turnaround with a concrete boat ramp. The turnaround area is adequate and the ramp was replaced in 2007. There is a small dock head and a new 60’ float dinghy dock, as well as a large parking area. Unimproved parking for 12 car/trailers is located about 300 feet above boat ramp.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Mt. Ben Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank partnered with the San Juan Preservation Trust to protect Mt. Ben's important scenic and ecological resources and to provide opportunities for public access. This 21-acre property on the south shoulder of Mt. Dallas, features outstanding views to the south across the San Juan Valley, the southern end of San Juan Island, the Strait of Juan De Fuca and beyond. The habitat includes mature forests and open meadows. There are numerous opportunities for pedestrian trails on this property.
Mount Grant Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust contracted to purchase this 141-acre property in 2015. To date, fundraising is continuing to raise the remaining amount owed. This property features spectacular ridge-top views across the entire archipelago and beyond. A road completed by the previous owners allows those with limited mobility to access the summit on selected days. The property also features old growth stands of Douglas-fir and associated species. Full public access is still under development.
Mud Bay Beach	Lopez	Pocket Park	County Parks and Public Works	This .43-acre day-use park is accessed off Mud Bay Road. the site has been used for clam digging, crabbing, and dinghy access. There are no amenities, no parking, no signage, and no turnaround
Mukosa Lane	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Located to the south of Obstruction Pass Road, there is a 10-foot public access easement to the rocky beach. The entire beach from Obstruction Pass Dock to this point is public.
Mulno Cove Farm	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Mulno Cove Farm consists of 78 acres of beautiful woodlands along Cattle Point Road, open agricultural fields, numerous ponds and 500 feet of shoreline along Griffin Bay. The farm has operated as both a market garden contributing garden fresh produce and goat cheese to our local farmers' market and restaurants. The conservation easement reduces development from 16 lots to 4 with no development along the shoreline.
Neck Point Cove Road End	Shaw	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Located on Neck Point, the northwestern end of the island, this undeveloped Shore Acces site leads to a beach area in a small bay. Although the site is unimproved, it is used for small boat launching, primarily for hand-carry boats and small cargo launch landings. It is adjacent to a private dock with moorage. The area is currently unsigned, but provides beach and tideland access. No public parking available at this time.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
North Beach Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Located at the north end of Orcas, North Beach Road is just east of airport. This 60-foot road end offers a beautiful view across the straits and Sucia Island. There is paved parking for up to 10 cars and a bench from which to enjoy the view. The tidelands extending from the road end are public.
Oak Knoll Farm	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Land Bank acquired this easement to protect its important scenic and agricultural resources. Continued agricultural use is encouraged and additional farm buildings are permitted. The property features an exceptional stand of mature Garry oak trees. Any new buildings or improvements will be sited in a manner to maximize protection of the Garry oak savannah.
Obstruction Pass	Orcas	Marine Facility	Public Works	Located in the community of Lieber Haven on the south end of the eastern side of the island, the road end is adjacent to Lieber Haven Resort. Amenities include a parking area for 5 trailers and 11 cars, 130-foot fixed pier, 45-foot floating dock, and low-tide concrete ramp. The dock is in excellent condition.
Olga Community Club Park	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	When a .38 acre wooded lot adjacent to the Community Club in the hamlet of Olga became available, residents launched an effort to purchase it for the community. The Land Bank assisted in the protection of the land with the purchase of a conservation easement that eliminates any future development and provides public access to the land in perpetuity.
Olga Road End ?	Orcas	Shore Access	Public Works	- description pending -
Odlin County Park	Lopez	Marine Facility	Public Works	The site provides a Boat Ramp, Pier and Dock and Float. The float was replaced and relocated in 2016, allowing boat access to both sides of the float. The access road was chipsealed to allow full ADA access to the facility. The concrete log boat ramp is located

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Orcas Artworks Historic Building and Grounds	Orcas	Historical Preservation and Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Orcas Artworks building is significant to the agricultural history of Orcas Island. It embodies the story of rural life and farming in the depression era of the 1930s and during World War II. The building was constructed in the 1930s as a strawberry packing plant, where Orcas grown strawberries were processed, barreled and shipped to the mainland for market. The advent of WWII at the end of 1941 led to the demise of this island industry that was so dependent upon farm laborers. The Land Bank acquired an easement to maintain the historic character of the building and to preserve the open space quality of the surrounding grounds.
Orcas Landing	Orcas	Marine Facility	Public Works	This facility was recently acquired by Public Works with the assistance of a state Recreational Conservation Office grant. The 0.75-acre site has been opened to the public and contains a pier, floating docks and picnic facilities.
Orcas Village Tidelands	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Adjacent to the Orcas ferry landing, the Orcas Village tidelands contain important eelgrass beds and marine habitat. They were the subject of a highly contested permit application for a proposed marina. The Save Orcas Bay Alliance purchased the tidelands and donated fee title to the Land Bank. A conservation easement was gifted to the SJ Preservation Trust, adding an additional layer of protection.
Plum Tree Farm	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Plum Tree Farm conservation easement protects 55 acres of open farmland and a small portion of forest in the scenic Crow Valley. The property lies along Orcas Road and Nordstrom Lane and provides a viewshed of Turtleback Mountain to the west and the Crow Valley to the east. Land Bank and property owners are working together to restore the overgrown fields to historic pasture. The conservation easement prevents residential construction in the viewshed and preserves the agricultural areas of the property.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Port Stanley Road Ends	Lopez	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Located on Swifts Bay on the northeast end of the island, these four Shore Access sites provide low bank beach access to the water. The county maintains public access signs at this location.
Portland Fair Wellhead Property	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Portland Fair Homeowners Association property is the wellhead site for the water system of the Portland Fair subdivision. The easement extinguishes all future development rights. These 22 acres of open pasture are part of a corridor of preserved agricultural lands along Cattle Point Road.
President Channel Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	An abundance of juvenile Chinook salmon making their way out to the open sea are supported by President Channel Preserve's 2,500 feet of shoreline. This land also includes a historic lime kiln, bald eagle nesting, madrona woodland, and coastal prairie. The San Juan Preservation Trust and the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board covered the entire cost of purchasing this preserve. The property is also adjacent to the 30-acre Cormorant Bay unit of the the San Juan Island's National Monument and a 100-private property protected by a San Juan Preservation Trust Conservation Easement. All told, over 6,000 of undeveloped shoreline are protected along the Channel.
Richardson Road End	Lopez	Road End	Public Works	Located in south Lopez just west of MacKaye Harbor, this county road ends at a old fuel dock with large fuel storage tanks. The road end is about 20 feet above the water and provides a nice view of the harbor. There is no access to the shoreline from this location.
Roark House	San Juan	Historic Preservation and Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This property was acquired to preserve its significant historic values. The classic craftsman style bungalow was built in 1913. Little has changed since then. The original architectural integrity of the residence is almost completely intact. The Friday Harbor Historic Preservation Review Board identified this house as one of eight significant residences located on the old Argyle Wagon Road (now known as Lower Argyle Avenue). This is the oldest residential neighborhood in Friday Harbor. The Land Bank encumbered the residence and property with an historic preservation and conservation easement and the residence was exchanged for one of the Lower Argyle lots and resold.
Roslyn Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access Road End	Public Works	This 40-foot undeveloped easement to Mud Bay is located off Islandale Road down an unmarked dirt road to the water. The site provides limited area for turnaround.
Sea Acres Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	The road ends on the far northeast side Orcas with steep cliffs and rocks that lead to the waters edge. The site has not been developed to provide public access to the shoreline.

Shaefer Stretch Property	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This conservation easement protects 133.61 acres of the Crow Valley. The property has roughly 6,000 feet of road frontage on the Horseshoe Highway. A number of agricultural fields edged by woodlands are visible from the road. Through the easement, four house sites are allowed at locations that do not interfere with the agricultural and scenic value of the property.
Department of Natural Resources School Trust Land	Shaw	Private Conservation Easement	Land Bank	An important bald eagle winter roost site on 30 acres of no access, upland forest and wetlands was purchased by the Land Bank from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Trust Land Transfer program. The property was then re-sold with a conservation easement held by The SJ Preservation Trust that ensures “forever wild” protection for this biologically significant parcel near Hankin Point.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Sperry Street Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This shore access is within a short walking distance from Sperry Road and provides views of the mud flats and Lopez Sound
Stonebridge - Terrill Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Stonebridge-Terrill Preserve protects 59 acres of meadow, wetlands, and forest. Used historically for agriculture, a portion of this land still yields hay for island livestock. The preserve provides varied habitat for wildlife, retains storm water, and helps recharge aquifers. A short trail into a forested wetland and wildlife observation area is open year-round. The mowed portion of the preserve is open to the public following mowing in late summer with walk-in access from the adjacent county roads. A portion of the field is also used occasionally by the Orcas Radio Control Aircraft Society.
Stonebridge Farm	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This 35-acre property was resold through the Land Bank's conservation buyer program. The easement limits the number of residences to two, and ensures that the highly visible agricultural fields will not be developed.
Stonecrest Farm	Lopez	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Bob and Catherine Clemens donated a conservation easement on 39 acres of gently rolling farmland south of Kjargaard Road on Lopez Island. Stonecrest Farm produces Angus beef cattle and Icelandic sheep. Under the terms of the conservation easement – which is crafted to protect scenic and agricultural resources - no residences or other buildings may ever be placed on this open, productive sweep of land. Stonecrest Farm is located within a quarter mile of two other Land Bank protected farms in the fertile Central Valley neighborhood.
Swale Trail	Orcas	Rustic Trail	Public Works	- description pending - makes pedestrians connections in the heart of eastsound
Terrill Beach Road End	Orcas	Shoreline Access	Public Works	Terrill Beach road end is located at the north end of the Orcas Island. The road end and undeveloped. There is medium bank access to water with a beautiful surrounding beach area.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Tharald Homestead	Shaw	Historic Preservation Easement	Land Bank	With the exception of the Krumdiack Homestead on Waldron Island, the Tharald Homestead is the most intact example of homesteading life in the islands. The house has been continuously occupied and cared for since 1883. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the two-story log structure is beautifully crafted from dovetail notched cedar logs. The original configuration is still intact. Owner Fred Ellis has donated a historic preservation easement that encumbers the façade and a portion of the interior of the log house.
Third Lagoon Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Adjacent to American Camp National Historic Park and the Cattle Point Natural Resources Conservation Area, this 20-acre property includes a rare saltwater lagoon of national, state and local significance, a low vegetated berm, a sandy inter-tidal salt marsh and a mature Douglas Fir upland forest. The lagoon and its surroundings provide habitat for numerous wildlife and marine organisms including nesting bald eagles and a great blue heron rookery. Migrating waterfowl frequent the property during winter. Acquired in partnership with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, a legally binding agreement between DNR and the Land Bank ensures preservation in perpetuity of this important habitat.
Trout Lake Watershed Property	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank acquired this property for watershed protection. This 40-acre parcel is situated near the top of the town watershed and is surrounded on three sides by the Town of Friday Harbor property and catercorner to Mount Grant Preserve

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Trumble and Gibbs Property	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Acquisition of this conservation easement completed protection of the Cayou Valley Lagoon. The property abuts the Bob and Meg Connor property and includes the only portion of the estuary that was not protected through the Connor conservation easement.
Turtleback Mountain Preserve	Orcas	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Orcas Island's Turtleback Mountain is one of the most familiar and beloved landmarks in the San Juan Islands. Long treasured by islanders for its dark, undeveloped ridgeline, it now belongs to the public. Turtleback Mountain is one of the largest undeveloped properties in the county. Sheltering a variety of special habitats and species, the preserve is ecologically significant as well as beautiful. Grasslands and Garry oak woodlands cover the mountain's dry southern slopes, while conifer forest blankets the remainder. Pocket wetlands scattered about the property provide crucial habitat for wildlife and moisture-loving plants. Seasonal drainage from the mountain nourishes the fertile wetlands of Crow Valley and the rich marine habitats of West Sound. Towering over Crow Valley and West Sound, Turtleback Mountain is visible from many vantage points throughout the county and beyond. Turtleback is also a recreational resource. Its high meadows and rocky ledges provide unparalleled views of the San Juans.
Twigg-Smith Property	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	This property is located on San Juan Valley Road on the north side of the road, just past Douglas Road. It is 155 acres of open farmland with some small wooded areas. It has over 2600 feet fronting on San Juan Valley Road. The conservation easement allows the property to be two lots. The agricultural areas of the property are to be preserved and all visible construction on the property will be located at least 1700 feet back from the county road.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Upright Head Preserve	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Upright Head is the northernmost point on Lopez Island, and is an important landmark recognized by many who travel the state ferry system. This 26-acre property includes 2,023 feet of medium and high-bank waterfront on Harney and Upright Channels. It lies adjacent to the Lopez ferry landing. The property has the development infrastructure including a water system and road, for a 13-lot subdivision. Residential development on the property would be highly visible from the water. The Preserve includes otter habitat, old growth forest, and interesting geological features.
W. Sundstrom Farm	San Juan	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	The Land Bank purchased a portion of the historic Wade Sundstrom farm on San Juan Island in 2008 and subsequently resold it with a conservation easement to the SJ Preservation Trust. The farm has been operating for 90 years and the goal of the project is to see that the land stays a working farm into the foreseeable future. Located at the corner of Douglas and San Juan Valley Roads, this property serves as a gateway to the agricultural lands of the valley. Its distinctive pastures and rolling hills are well known to many islanders.
Warm Valley Farm	Orcas	Conservation Easement	Land Bank	Warm Valley Farm has been in agricultural use since the 1800s. The 78-acre farm has nearly 2,000 feet of road frontage on Orcas Road and includes pasture land grazed by sheep, numerous fruit and nut trees, a large vegetable garden and substantial woodlands. Under the terms of the easement, the property will remain as one residential lot with a residence limited in size to 4000 sq. ft. and a guest house limited to 1000 sq. ft.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Watmough Bay Preserve	Lopez	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	Dramatic cliffs and towering old growth Douglas firs frame the stunning Watmough Bay Preserve at the south end of Lopez Island. In 1993 a 70-foot section of beach was generously donated to the Land Bank in order to ensure public access to this local treasure. In 2007 the Land Bank partnered with the SJ Preservation Trust to protect an additional 7.29 acres with approximately 680 feet of high bank waterfront along the south side of the bay. A neighboring property owner also donated adjacent two parcels in an effort to conserve the character of the bay, protect significant ecological features, and maintain public access. The surrounding 390 acres is part of the SJ Island's National Monument established in 2013.
Weeks Road Trail	Lopez	Right-of-Way Trail	Public Works	This 0.3-mile gravel path was constructed in 2009 and extends the full length of the road from Lopez Road to Fisherman Bay Road and is located on the northerly side. It connects a number of the businesses in Lopez Village.
Weeks Point Way Road End	Lopez	Shoreline Access	Public Works	This developed road end is located in Lopez village and provides public access to the water. The site includes parking, a nice view of entrance to Fisherman Bay, and one picnic table. A hand-carry boats can be launched at this site. It is a well-defined access point with signs delineating the private property on both sides.
Westsound (Boddington)	Orcas	Marine Facility	Public Works	This dock is located on Deer Harbor Road just east of Crow Valley Road. It is located in the small community of West Sound. Amenities include a 165-foot fixed pier leading to two 45-foot floating docks in linear arrangement. Adjacent to the dock, stairs lead to the beach. According to a sign on the dock, this dock is also called Boddington's Dock. It is available for day-use only. The dock is adjacent to a similar dock owned by the Orcas Island Yacht Club.

Site	Island	Classification	County Department	Description
Westside Scenic Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	This open expanse lying west of Westside Road provides public access to nearly 16 acres and protects over one-half mile of shoreline south of the Land Bank's Deadman Bay Preserve. Most notable among this land's features is the biologically-rich, rocky, inter-tidal habitat and offshore reef. The property offers spectacular panoramic views and visitors may watch for whales and other marine life from the high rocky bluffs that overlook Haro Strait. While best known for its scenic attributes, the Westside Scenic Preserve also has ecological significance as a remnant of an ancient prairie ecosystem. Maintaining and restoring native prairie is one of the Land Bank's goals here. In 2015, the Land Bank received a donation of an adjacent 30-acre parcel from the Reiss family. This addition will add to the area open to the public with more diverse vistas and prairie.
Zylstra Lake Preserve	San Juan	Natural Area Preserve	Land Bank	The Land Bank partnered with the SJ Preservation Trust to acquire this 313-acre property in late 2015. Both organizations are attempted to raise the balance of the funds owed through grants in 2016 and 2017. A 30-acre homestead portion will be resold as a private farm. Should fundraising for the remainder succeed, the lake would be protected as wildlife habitat and it would allow the potential for salmon restoration along False Bay Creek to the south. Additionally, the upper lake would likely be open to swimming and non-motorized small boats.